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**A Weekly Journal of the Chemical and Drug Trades
and of
British Pharmacists throughout the Empire.**

ESTABLISHED 1859.

The CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is in circulation and reputation the leading journal addressing the chemical and drug trades in the British Empire and other countries in the Old and New Worlds. It is the official journal of nineteen Chemists' Societies in Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, and the West Indies.

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CONTENTS: Vol. LXXXII., No. 7 (Series No. 1725)

[The folios in this List and in the Summary are those at the top of the pages, but references in the Text are to the Index folios at the bottom of the pages.]

PAGE		PAGE	
Australasian News	39	National Health Insurance:	
Bankruptcy Reports	41	Pricing Problems	44
Births	43	Points in Practice	45
Books, New	54	Dispensing Arrangements	46
Business Changes	59	Position of Drug-store Keepers	48
Colonial and Foreign News	40	Insurance Notes	49
Coming Events	40	Authentic Incidents	49
Companies and Company News	43	Observations and Reflections	51
Correspondence:		Our German Letter	54
Letters	66	Personalities	61
Subscribers' Symposium	67	Pharmaceutical Society:	
Legal Queries	67	Evening Meeting	55
Miscellaneous Inquiries	67	Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland	56
Deaths	43	Poisonings	59
Editorial Articles:		Retrospect	68
A New Epoch of Pharmacy: VII. Caution	52	Scientific Progress	50
January Overseas Trade	53	Scottish News	38
English and Welsh News	35	Shop Act	59
Festivities	60	Synthesis of the Atom	34
French News	39	Trade Notes	49
Gazette	42	Trade Report	63
India and the East	40	Veterinary Notes	54
Information Department	50	Westminster Wisdom	57
Insurance Ideas	35	Wills	43
Irish News	38	Winter Session	60
Legal Reports	41		
Marriages	43		

REGARDING THAT BOOM

in Overseas trade about which we have heard so much during the past year. Have you had your full share of the enormous increase in exports? If not, the opportunity is still before you, and the man who can make it easy for you is the Export Merchant Shipper. He takes all the trouble off your shoulders, so it is worth while to cultivate him. This you can do by giving full particulars of your goods and your brands in a prominent advertisement in

THE EXPORT MERCHANT SHIPPERS' ISSUE

of

THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST,**March 8, 1913.****SUMMARY.**

Being a first glance at the articles and events reported in this Issue.

Articles and Communications.

January export and import trade was again exceptionally good. We deal with the chemical and drug-trade figures on p. 53.

"Xrayser II." is of opinion that the reappointment of the Select Committee on Patent Medicines is doubtful, as it has served its purpose (p. 51).

Professor Collie (London) and Mr. Patterson (Manchester) have independently transmuted hydrogen into helium and helium and oxygen into neon. The methods are described on pp. 34-35.

At the evening meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society this week Messrs. Farr and Wright gave a method of preparing powdered aconite extract, the standard for which they suggest should be 1 per cent. of aconitine. Messrs. Harrison and Selfe read a paper on asafetida, the main purpose of which was to show that the "lead" number test employed by the United States Customs Chemists is thoroughly untrustworthy (p. 55).

National Health Insurance.

Mr. Glyn-Jones made a long speech on the Act in the House of Commons on February 7. See p. 57.

The incidence of the Shops Act upon Insurance dispensing is vexing some correspondents, whose letters are printed on p. 66.

Queries in regard to pricing of Insurance prescriptions and problems that have arisen in practice are replied to on pp. 44-46.

Many questions have been asked in Parliament regarding dispensing panels, drug tariff, quality of appliances and drugs and cognate subjects. They are reported on pp. 58-59.

The Dorset Insurance Committee wants the Pharmaceutical Committee to check prescription-pricing in accordance with regulation, but we point out that the Insurance Committee has to check the accounts first (p. 66).

Mr. Huntridt (Leds) led a deputation of drug-store keepers to the Insurance Commissioners on Wednesday. The deputation asserted that in certain towns Insurance dispensing provisions are inadequate if unregistered persons are not allowed to go on the panel, and registration without examination was claimed (p. 48).

News of the Week.

We report more fully the conclusion of the Coventry ring-worm case (p. 37).

The Rexall people are opposing the registration of a trademark by Boots (p. 41).

An inquiry into a curious case, in which aspirin-poisoning was alleged, is reported on p. 36.

Seven limited companies have been registered during the past week as chemists and druggists (p. 42).

The late Robert Chipperfield's will has been before the High Court this week, as briefly reported on p. 54.

Mr. W. G. Clark, chemist, Watford, died very suddenly last Friday following an explosion in his warehouse (p. 37).

Argentine tariff changes are noted on p. 40, where also a strike of chemists consequent on prior tariff advances is reported.

Messrs. Ingram & Royle have won their action for recovery of the value of over a thousand cases of mineral water lost at sea (p. 42).

Sir William J. Baxter has so far recovered from his recent illness as to be able to preside at this month's Irish Pharmaceutical Council meeting (p. 56).

Trade and Market Matters.

Some interesting statistics regarding the world's supply and demand of coca and cocaine are given on p. 65.

Borax, boric acid, citric acid, hellebore, celery-seed, and shellac are dearer. Benzols, petrodatum, and creosin wax are firmer. Mastich, opium, copper, and ammonium sulphate are easier, while lemon oil and quicksilver (seconds) are cheaper (p. 63).

Ideas on Insurance Dispensing.

The Editor pays for contributions to this column, especially for ideas which have been found beneficial or useful in working the chemists' part of the Insurance Medical Benefit, and in solving difficulties which arise in connection with it.

Filing Prescriptions.

The filing system advocated consists in arranging each day's prescriptions in alphabetical order of surnames. By means of a counter sorting file this alphabetising arrangement can be automatically done during the day. Each unit may then simply be kept loose in suitable stout envelopes (say, 8×4½ in.), clearly marked with the date at the top right-hand corner, or date tabs may be gummed in serial sequence along the top edge of the envelope. These can be kept in a suitably partitioned counter or other drawer of convenient depth, arranged in order from back to front—i.e., January 15, January 16, and so on—with two cross partitions to keep the months separate. Thus an ordinary drawer with one longitudinal division comprising three sections would take a quarter's prescriptions. Filing the units on the card-index principle between cards numbered 1 to 31 for each month is perhaps preferable for convenience and rapidity in picking out any particular unit. If form B alone be filed, affix a staple or pin through the top left-hand corner, or, better still, through the middle of the left-hand side, so that each unit becomes a booklet and disarrangement is obviated.

The great advantage of this method of filing lies in the fact that the date of dispensing marked on the label, or indicated by the medical man, becomes in conjunction with the patient's name the equivalent of the ordinary prescription number. Thus for "G. Hall, Rept. Mist., Jan. 31," it is only necessary to pick out the proper unit for that date, and Mr. Hall's prescription will probably be in the first half. The date placed on a "repeat" prescription will, of course, be that of the original unless each quarter's prescriptions are made as self-contained as possible. This is effected at the start of the new quarter by transferring on to the "repeat" prescription as it comes in a copy of the original, and making the new date the reference date on the label. As will be seen below, this becomes an advantage in accounting.

Two sets for three months should be ample for reference purposes, and as the units get out of date each quarter's set can be made into a parcel, dated legibly at the end, and filed away in order on a shelf. For accounting each three months would be a unit, but it will not affect the system above except so far as the removal of A forms after pricing, if this has not been done in the first instance. Arrangement according to price can be done once and for all at the close of the quarter, or day by day in a filing cabinet, with cards arranged according to price. In accounting for "repeats" the simplest plan would be to pin the "repeats" to the original.

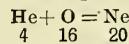
The system outlined above is especially applicable to pharmacies at which twenty or more Insurance prescriptions a day are dispensed. With smaller numbers a week could be made the unit as using 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 as the indicator of the order of the week in the month.—Organiser. (231/63.)

Synthesis of the Atom.

THE great patience and care of Mr. H. Patterson, the skill of Professor J. N. Collie, and the power of Sir William Ramsay, conspired to give to the Chemical Society last week a communication which, for dramatic interest, had never been exceeded in its history. So said the Chairman of the meeting on February 6, at the close of two communications by these three chemists, which in one momentous stride brought science to the threshold of the evolution of the atom.

Sir William Ramsay first lifted a corner of the curtain in the drama. After recalling the polite scepticism which met his experimental evidence of the production of lithium from copper, and of carbon dioxide from thorium and silicon under the action of niton (radium emanation), Sir William said radium emanation gives more than three and a half million times the energy of the same bulk of explosive gas. Having had to return to Austria some radium which he had had on loan, he resorted to *beta* rays as a means of chemical transformation. This did not look a promising source, for only 5 or 6 per cent. of

the energy of the radium emanation is due to *beta* rays. Still, it occurred to him to try the attempt with old x-ray bulbs. The result showed that the "uncondensable" gases from the broken glass of the bulbs contained helium, while the gas pumped off from these old bulbs, heated to between 300° and 350° C., also gave a very slight quantity of this gas. Where this comes from Sir William was not prepared to say. It might have been derived from the gas inside the bulb, or from contact of electrons with the cathode or anti-cathode, or from the contact of the cathodic rays with the glass. Last summer he informed the Society that on treating water with radium emanation, instead of getting helium only he also got neon. The equation suggesting itself:



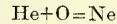
Whether this is correct or not remains to be seen, but experimental evidence makes it more and more probable. In Bath waters there is three times as much neon as helium, niton decomposing in the bowels of the earth and the nascent helium uniting with the nascent oxygen to form neon.

Professor Collie next took up the dramatic narrative by explaining how he and Mr. Patterson had been experimenting independently, but on the same lines, from diverse points of view, with electric discharges through hydrogen at low pressure. Professor Collie told how, some years ago, when at the Pharmaceutical Society's School, being in possession of a good Ruhmkorff coil, he had "played about with it a good deal," noticing that many minerals, especially fluorspar, changed colour. Last summer Sir William Ramsay handed him some curious fluorspar from Iceland, which gave off some helium on heating. Careful analysis showed no trace of radioactive substances producing this gas. The heated fluorspar on bombarding with x-rays gave off large quantities of gas, mostly carbon dioxide. In the meantime, Sir William Ramsay had invented another ingenious apparatus, the only one to use when it comes to dealing with small amounts of gas. On using this to test the gas, it was found that neon was present. Further investigation showed that the same result was obtained with pure artificial calcium fluoride, powdered glass-wool, and glass from old x-ray bulbs. On discarding these and using a bare glass tube he still got neon. "Where did it come from?" Then followed a description of control experiments and devices adopted to rule out possibilities of leaky taps, impurities in the hydrogen placed in the tube to conduct the current, and in the oxygen used for getting rid of the hydrogen, while proof was also adduced that neon was not dissolved in the glass. Still he was not satisfied. A negative result was obtained on trying to get neon to leak through glass during two days' heating. Mr. Patterson told how from physical considerations he had conceived that the mass of the atom is due to its electric charge. This made the atom one two-thousandth the size of the electron, which sounded absurd, but there is no conflict of ideas if it is remembered that this does not represent the size of the atom as measured ordinarily. Thus helium is equal to hydrogen with two electric charges on it, so it may be possible by adding an electric charge to pass from the hydrogen atom to an *alpha* particle, and thus to helium.

Professor Collie said Mr. Patterson's idea was to get helium by sparking hydrogen, but instead he got neon. Mr. Patterson had the impetuosity of youth, and Professor Collie suggested to him one more experiment, as his hydrogen prepared by electrolysis barium hydrate solution might contain dissolved air, carrying an infinitesimal amount of neon. The air was replaced with pure oxygen, but again the same result was obtained. Next, the tube was jacketed with another containing neon, and subjected to x-ray discharge, but no neon leaked through. Similarly, no trace of helium even at half an atmosphere pressure leaked in. The inevitable "one experiment more" met its due reward, as the following abstract of Professor Collie's narrative shows:

When sending in his paper the week before Professor Collie had used the outer protecting vessel as a vacuum. This was higher than the x-ray vacuum, as it would not

pass a spark, but still neon appeared, the quantity thus obtained being comparable with two cubic centimetres of air. He absorbed the oxygen by means of carbon immersed in liquid air, and on warming and pumping off this gas he found phosphorus absorbed all of it except a bubble the size of a pin's head. He regarded this as a nuisance, but even if it was nitrogen, the leak must have been very small indeed. However, he took the trouble to catch it, and found it was pure helium, which could not have been present in the air in the tube. After that experiment he sent in his notice to the Society. On Friday and Saturday, January 31 and February 1, he repeated the experiment twice, and when had asked himself whether there was anything else he could test. He had nothing particular to do on Saturday afternoon, so he decided to test whether there was anything in the outer chamber. He let 1 c.c. of pure oxygen into the outer chamber. On passing a spark there was a slight explosion due to hydrogen. He did not know where this came from. He absorbed the oxygen in the usual way, and again got a relatively large quantity of gas, which he thought must be helium. On testing it by means of the coil the sight he saw astounded him, for the tube was blazing with helium and a certain amount of neon mixed with it. The glow of this gas was demonstrated. Mr. Patterson repeated the experiment with identical results. Since Monday, February 3, Mr. Patterson had made a variation, only putting a little oxygen into the outer vessel at about 10 millimetres pressure. Instead of getting helium mostly, he got a large quantity of neon. In other words:



If helium had got sufficient velocity when produced in the inner tube to go through it and hit up against an oxygen atom, it was quite likely a new element would be produced.

He was quite satisfied that neon and helium have been produced from substances in which they were previously not present. Where they came from, or how produced, he did not know. One possibility is that some element was broken down. He had present mercury, platinum, aluminium, calcium, oxygen, and other elements of glass. Again, there was a chance that hydrogen was a source, or it is possible that they were dealing with a primordial form of matter, the primordial atom which when produced had all the energy necessary for forming the world. When these "atoms" came together they combined to form atoms of the elements, a process seen in the formation of nebulae and the birth of stars. The first elements seen in these, hydrogen and helium, are elements *par excellence*. Helium is turning up everywhere, and if it is made up from hydrogen atoms it is understandable that the electric current may direct the flow of these atoms, checking and altering the vortices of their electrons. One fact remains, the elements as we know them can be changed. With radium, the degradation cannot be hastened or checked, but this artificial production of helium and neon is at the other end of the system. Elements at the bottom of the list of low atomic weight are being produced in an artificial way from we know not where. The old idea of transmutation of the elements would have to undergo further considerable change, said professor Collie. We are now coming to know more of sub-atomic matter. Thus, as Tennyson says:

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

Professor Collie showed several experiments. The first was a beautiful blue or rose-red glow produced by sparking neon over mercury in a flask. The red colouration given with perfectly pure neon was also demonstrated, the tube blazing like a pillar of fire. A piece of the heated inner experiment tube, full of gas bubbles which had been caught in transit, was also shown under the microscope.

The synthesis of the atom is thus almost undoubtedly an accomplished fact, its corroboration or refutation being, unlike the discovery of radium, a comparatively simple matter. As a nation, we congratulate ourselves that it has been carried out by British scientists, and as pharmacists that its inception partly began with work in a pharmaceutical laboratory. It is curious that the destructive animal, man himself, should have left the discovery of the disrupting element to woman, and instead found how to build it up.

ENGLISH AND WELSH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Photographs of the presentation silver mug given by Mr. J. H. Smith, chemist, Newark (*C. & D.*, January 18, index folio 79), and of the insurance baby to which it has been awarded are given in the "Newark Advertiser" of February 12.

Mr. N. Tomlinson, chemist and druggist, 110 Paditham Road, Burnley, made application recently for a cinematograph-licence for contemplated premises. The Bench intimated that such a place was not necessary, and they would not have granted the licence even if they had had the power to do so.

At the last meeting of the Llanelly Guardians Dr. Davies called attention to the account for surgical appliances (11*L.*), and asked why these were not tendered for. The Clerk explained that the orders went to the local chemists in turn. The Master stated that in some cases the orders were urgent.

Spectacle-makers' Company.

The Spectacle-makers' Company has had several applications from provincial cities to consider the holding of an examination in the provinces during this year. It is impossible, however, for the Court to decide upon such arrangements unless a reasonable number of applications from intending candidates be first received. The Clerk of the Company would be pleased to hear at once from intending candidates who are interested in the project with a view to a consideration of the matter. We are also informed by Colonel T. Davies-Sewell that the collective advertisement which the Company inserted in the "Daily Telegraph" has brought appreciative letters from Fellows, several averring that immediate and direct benefit resulted from customers who were directed to their establishments by the advertisement.

C.A.A. Cinderella.

Those who enjoyed the delights of the Cinderella dance given by the Chemists' Assistants' Association last December will need little invitation to attend the second one of the session in the Crown Room, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., on February 20. For others it may be added that the company forms one happy family under the control of Mr. C. W. Martin as M.C., while the dance-music is as lively as the Clement Harris Band can make it. Supper will again be served in the Grand Salon, the price of tickets (double 10s., single 5s.) covering this. The Hon. Secretaries, Mr. A. Haigh, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., and Mr. F. Naylor, 157 Ferme Park Road, Crouch End, N., will be glad to hear from those who intend coming as early as possible, so as to make full arrangements for the comfort of the Association's guests.

Rat Virus.

The City of London medical officer (Dr. W. Collingridge), in his report for January 1 to 18, states that a preparation in use at the Central Meat Markets and other places in London was stated to contain a Loeffler's bacillus, and to be impervious to the action of sun, rain, or moist atmosphere. Another claim made was that a peculiar merit of the bait is that the infected rat does not break out in sores, but "in some mysterious way is rendered more palatable to his fellows, who devour his carcass with avidity." The report of Dr. Andrewes states that the virus appears to be wholly inert. Two white rats, fed exclusively on the virus for two days, consumed twenty of the gelatin tubes, and remained in perfect health. On representation the firm who placed this virus on the market undertook to withdraw it.

Masonic.

Mr. H. Granger, Ph.C., High Street, Newhaven, Sussex, has been appointed organist of the Homestren Lodge of Freemasons.

Mr. L. B. Rowland, chemist and druggist, 9 High Street, Wrexham, has been installed J.W. of the Square and Compass Lodge of Freemasons, Wrexham.

Contracts.

Diss Urban Council.—Mr. J. C. Palmer, Diss, for a six months' supply of disinfectants.

Wandsworth Borough Council.—Burt, Boulton & Haywood, Ltd., for an annual supply of disinfectants.

Canterbury City Council.—E. Bing & Son, Canterbury, appointed Corporation chemists for the ensuing half-year.

Bradford Town Council.—British Oxygen Co., Ltd., for the annual supply of oxygen to the tramways department at 40s. per 1,000 cubic ft.

Analysts' Affairs.

All the fourteen drug-samples examined by the Bristol analyst last quarter were genuine, with the exception of one of mercurial ointment, taken for experimental purposes.

The Manchester city analyst (Mr. Charles Estcourt), in his quarterly report, deals with 776 samples taken for analysis. Among these were quinine wine 4, arrow-root 3, flowers of sulphur 3, bicarb. soda 3, cod-liver oil 2, cordials 2, cream of tartar 2, tartaric acid 2, camph. oil 2, and one each of turpentine, acid calcium phosphate, Gregory's powder, milk of sulphur, castor oil, and glycerin. All the drugs were genuine.

The Birmingham city analyst, Mr. J. F. Liverseege, F.I.C., Ph.C., states in his quarterly report that a single formal sample of seidlitz powders taken for analysis was labelled :

SELTZER POWDER.

(From an Improved and Original Formula), and more beneficial as a Saline and Anti-Acid draught than the

**SEIDLITZ POWDER
Of the British Pharmacopœia.**

The blue paper contained 124 grains of sodium bicarbonate with 26 grains of dried Epsom salt, and the white paper contained 38 grains of tartaric acid. The sodium bicarbonate was 81 grains in excess. Seidlitz powders were asked for, and the vendor gave no explanation that the powders sold were different from the ordinary Seidlitz powder. The vendor was prosecuted and fined 2*l.* and 9*s.* costs. Eleven of the fourteen samples of camphorated oil were passed as genuine, the three adulterated samples being obtained from one vendor. The figures given on analysis suggest that the vendor, after selling camphorated oil from the bottle, replaced what was sold with olive oil. He was prosecuted and fined 10*s.* and 9*s.* costs. Five samples of saffron were genuine, a sixth containing 10 per cent. of ash.

Wine-licences.

At Oldham Licensing Sessions last week, Dr. Yates, who presided, said that medicated wines were, in his opinion, a curse to the country, and he was quite against granting any more facilities for their sale.

Mr. R. S. Angus, chemist, 24 St. Nicholas Street, Lancaster, had given notice to the Lancaster Magistrates to apply at the Licensing Sessions for a wine-licence in substitution for the one he formerly held in Stonewell. Owing to a misunderstanding Mr. Angus and his solicitor did not reach the court till 10.40 A.M., when the Magistrates, having no other new licensing business, had declared the Court over.

At the Croydon Licensing meeting on February 11, Mr. John Harrison Hudson, 59 Dingwall Road, Croydon, was granted a spirits licence.—Mr. R. J. Clark, solicitor, stated that the applicant was secretary of the Anglo-American Pharmaceutical Co., manufacturing chemists, and that the authority was wanted because the two preparations sold by the company, "Peptenzyme" and "Trophonine," contained, as preservative, 16.14 per cent. of alcohol. The sales would be restricted to 8-oz., 16-oz., and one gallon packages, on which understanding the authority was granted.

Wine-licences have been granted to the following applicants connected with the drug-trade. In some cases it is understood that medicated wines only will be sold by the licensees :

Taylor's Drug-stores, 1 Market Place, Northallerton.

Mr. John Cooper, chemist, 107 London Street, Reading.

Mr. F. Cherry, Ph.C., 3 High Street, Walton-on-Thames.

Mr. J. H. Dennis, 33 Church Street, Willington Quay, Northumberland.

Mr. John Brown, chemist, 7 Manchester Road; Mr. J. A. Barlow, chemist, Accrington Road; Mr. J. A. Barlow, jun., chemist, 159 Padham Road; Mr. E. Graham, chemist, 200 Padham Road; and Mr. Harry Hanky, 82 Accrington Road—all of Burnley.

Applications for wine-licences made on behalf of the following have been refused :

Taylor's Drug Co., Ltd., Harrogate.

Timothy White, Ltd., Fore Street, St. Austell.

Mr. J. L. Jones, chemist, 96 Albany Road, Cardiff.

Mr. E. A. Atkins, Ph.C., 71 East Hill, Wandsworth, London, S.W.

Mr. John Shaw, chemist, 123 High Street, Gosforth, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Mr. J. F. Blackhurst, chemist and druggist, of 56 Lytham Road, Blackpool.

Mr. Thomas Ross Pattinson, wholesale druggist, New Bridge Street, Strangeways, Manchester. Permission was asked to sell medicated wine in smaller quantities than a dozen bottles.

Mr. Harry Bellringer, chemist, of 20 Great Clowes Street, Broughton, Manchester, who applied for a general wine-licence. The Salford Licensing Justices intimated that if the application had been for a medicated-wine licence only they would have considered it.

The Timothy White Co., 213 St. Albans Road, Watford. At the local Licensing Sessions applicants' solicitor said he was willing to restrict the sale under the licence to medicated wines on the list handed in. He could give a form of endorsement made in licences granted elsewhere. Applicants admitted that no chemist in Watford held a wine-licence. Mr. Matthew Arnold, opposing on behalf of a local grocer, suggested that some chemists, even in Watford, sell medicated wines in medicine-bottles with a stamp over them. Mr. E. R. Samways, chemist, manager at Watford, said he did not know of one instance. The Bench refused the application, as they held they had no power to attach conditions.

Alleged Aspirin-poisoning.

An inquest was held at the Five Bells Inn, Burwell, on February 5, regarding the death of Florence Violet Smart (23), daughter of the landlord of the inn. It appeared from the evidence of the girl's mother that she had an attack of pleurisy and pneumonia in October 1910, and had never quite recovered, having pains in her back and losing the use of her legs below the knees. She had taken aspirin tablets from March 1911, on the advice of a nurse, to relieve the pains. In July last Dr. Edward Pratt Evatt was called in, and continued to attend her until the last days of December. Dr. G. C. Gray was called in on January 6. The morning after the girl's death Dr. Evatt sent the following letter to the Superintendent of Police :

Burwell, Cambs.,

February 2, 1913.

Re Florence Smart, Five Bells Hotel, Newmarket.

Cause of death: aspirin-poisoning.

To Superintendent Winter.

DEAR SIR,—I was called in to this case July 18 last, and found upon investigation that the deceased had been in the habit of taking enormous doses of aspirin (acid-aceto-salicylic). She took 100 (one hundred) grains in two days, when I detected her. Paralysis of the lower limbs set in, and ultimately mortification. The Smarts were not pleased at my diagnosis, and on January 7 called in young Dr. Gray. Of course, he knew nothing of the poison. The girl died yesterday. I think in the night before she took the drug incessantly to relieve pain or to make her sleep. The drug was obtained from Carr's. Different people (Murphy and Snowy) got it for her. The reporter (a racing newspaper representative who stopped at the Five Bells during the July meetings) investigated this on his own account.—I am, yours truly,

EDWARD PRATT EVATT.

In consequence of this letter the present inquiry was held by Mr. T. Wilson, coroner for the Liberty of Bury St. Edmund's, and evidence was given by the girl's mother, Dr. Evatt, Nurse Trowman, Dr. Gray, and Dr. Stiff. It appeared from the evidence that the girl was in a pitiable condition of emaciation at her death, and had suffered terribly from bed-sores. Dr. Gray testified that she died from bed-sores and an advanced tuberculous condition of the lungs, while Dr. Stiff, from his *post-mortem* examination, corroborated. The lungs, he said, were riddled with cavities dripping with pus, and were very extensively diseased. Dr. Evatt's evidence was to the effect that he found the liver enlarged, the spleen also, but

e attributed death to aspirin-poisoning. This was denied by the other doctors, and the jury returned the following verdict:

That the deceased died from exhaustion due to phthisis and bed-sores, and the jury would like to express the rider that they are also of opinion that the statement made by Dr. Evatt to the police that the deceased met her death from aspirin-poisoning should not have been made, as he had not sufficient evidence to substantiate his statement.

The Coroner expressed his agreement with the verdict and rider, and considered that people have no right to behave as Dr. Evatt had done, nor to write such a letter as that which he had sent to the police.

Manchester Notes.

The gale of last Friday did a considerable amount of damage to several pharmacies in the Manchester district. One suburban chemist states that his small side window was blown out during the height of the gale and a girl who was passing at the time was cut about the face and hands, fortunately not very seriously.

Chemists' windows are of a somewhat mixed nature at present, perhaps owing to the changeable weather. A few bright days this last week created a demand for spring medicines. It is unusual on a day in February to have over a dozen customers for sulphur tablets. Counter trade business, generally speaking, seems to be fairly good.

Railways and Returned Carboys.

The chemical section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce have asked the railway companies to explain their decision to accept only at "owners' risk" returned carboys which had contained dangerous liquids. In reply, the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company state that after consideration by the companies in conference it had been decided that carboys which had contained such liquids would not be accepted for conveyance unless securely stoppered or quite clean and empty.

Chemist's Death after an Explosion.

An inquiry was held at Watford on February 8 into the death of Mr. William George Clark (66), chemist and druggist, 97 St. Albans Road, Watford, whose death took place shortly after an explosion on the previous morning.—Miss Helen Clark, daughter of deceased, said that at 10.30 on Friday morning her father had asked her to keep an eye on the shop while he went into the warehouse to get some drugs. Soon afterwards she heard an explosion and falling glass, while the shop became filled with smoke. Deceased then returned into the shop. A lady came in and asked for a prescription which deceased had been making up, but witness could not find it. In her opinion it was destroyed by the explosion. She washed her father's face, and asked if he was hurt. Deceased said "No," and seemed all right. Witness went out for a short time, and on her return found her father lying in an inner room unconscious. He died about twenty-five minutes after the explosion. About twenty years ago her father had a bad illness, which left his heart weak. In reply to the Coroner, witness said the light used for sealing was burning at the time of the explosion.—Dr. Rudyard deposed that in his opinion death was due to heart failure after the shock of the explosion. The jury returned a verdict that death was due to natural causes—heart failure induced or accelerated by the shock of the explosion. Our correspondent states that nothing has been seen since of the prescription Mr. Clark was making up. He says Mr. Clark was apparently well enough to clear up the broken bottles, etc., and most of the mess before retiring to his room. The lady who came into the shop for the prescription cannot be traced.

Midland Notes.

The measles epidemic at Wednesbury is very acute, Dr. Rew at a Coroner's inquest stating that children "were flying like flies."

Several pharmacists are having fitted up small rooms at the back of their shops as dispensaries and waiting-rooms for their Insurance Act dispensing. In some cases the presiding genius is to be the lady dispenser.

Miss Hately, who until recently was in the dispensary at the General Hospital, has been appointed bacteriologist in the laboratory of the Birmingham medical officer of health. She is the niece of Mr. F. H. Biddle, pharmacist, Olton. Her cousin, Miss Dawson, occupies a similar position at the consumption sanatorium at Yardley.

Pharmacy was well represented at the Mayor's Annual Ball held on Monday last, when over two thousand guests attended. Among the company were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Barlow, Mr. Councillor and Mrs. Poole, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Barclay, Sir Thomas Barclay and daughters, Mr. Alfred Bird, M.P., and Mrs. Bird, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Southall, Alderman Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Freeman, Mr. W. R. Hedges, jun., and Miss Hedges, Mr. W. and Mrs. Shakespeare, Dr. and Mrs. Coole Kneale, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Liverseege, and Mr. Sidney Fisher.

What was the Cause of Death?

We reported last week (index folio 211) the result of the inquest as to the death of Frances M. Willmot (8), Wednesday's evidence being reported on index folio 216. We now append a report of Thursday's evidence:

Mr. Bales, chemist, was recalled, and stated he had submitted a sample of the white-precipitate ointment to Messrs. Wyleys, Ltd., manufacturing chemists, from whom he bought it, and their report upon the analysis was that it was found to be an identical composition with the ammoniated mercurial ointment, B.P. Another sample from the same pot, sent to Mr. Thomas Tickle, B.Sc., was reported upon as of genuine constitution and free from mercuric chloride or any foreign substance.—Dr. Heald, giving evidence, said his instructions were to paint the iodine on the ringworm patches with a brush, and to use the prescribed ointment for rubbing over the hair to prevent the ringworm spreading. When Mrs. Willmot asked him if she was to paint the iodine also over the hair, he replied: "No, my word! On no account paint the iodine over the hair; only paint the iodine on the patches and rub the ointment over the hair." She appeared to understand these instructions. Had he known that blue ointment had been used on these patches for a week he should not have ordered iodine. Had his instructions been followed out there would not have been any trouble at all, as there would have been no iodide of mercury formed. He thought that in her anxiety to cure the case, she must have put on a tremendous quantity of the white ointment, and that the children were suffering from the absorption of mercury. On the girl there was blistering on the neck, but none where the hair was, and Mrs. Willmot said the iodine had caused this blister. He could form no opinion as to the cause of the trouble until, in the course of conversation with Mr. Willmot, he understood that Mrs. Willmot had poured the iodine on the child's head and rubbed it in. After this he came to the conclusion that the iodine had combined with the ointment at the nape of the neck. When he ordered these two remedies he knew that the two together might form a dangerous poison, but he dissented from a suggestion by Mr. Willison (for the parents) that it would have been safer to have given written instructions because people generally either did not read them or tore them up.—The Coroner, summing up, called attention to the enormous amount of mercurial ointments used, and these were all of a cumulative character. He was certain that in the child there must have been many grains of pure mercury. The result of the combination of the iodine and the mercury was the formation of biniode of mercury, a poisonous compound which was quickly absorbed into the blood.—The jury returned a verdict of death from mercurial poisoning, and added that they thought there was a misunderstanding on the part of Mrs. Willmot as to the application of the ointment, and they thought medical men should give more definite instructions as to the use of these remedies.—The Coroner said he felt certain the verdict was correct.

Liverpool Notes.

Mr. Louis K. Liggett is having a busy time with Rexall business, and has arranged several meetings next week with directors, shareholders, and assistants. The last-named are to form a "club."

Cherists in the Liverpool area are kept quite busy with insurance dispensing, and the work is steadily increasing. Chemists are finding that they are making new customers and friends among insured persons, these often making other purchases while waiting for their prescribed medicines. One chemist has converted a store-room into a waiting-room, while another has contracted with two local medicos to do all their

dispensing, as now they had so little. The only proviso was that the pharmacist bought up their stock. He did so, and now has turned the usual "back room" into a fine dispensary waiting-room. Many chemists are dispensing from eighty to a hundred prescriptions per diem, and in lower-class districts as many as one hundred and fifty, but the general average runs from twenty-five to fifty a day. "Prescribed appliances" is a term still not properly understood by some local chemists, and Mr. G. V. C. Last, the chemists' representative on the local Insurance Committee, is having a busy time answering numerous inquiries on this point. One chemist had supplied two hot-water bags and an enema from an insurance order, while another supplied a tooth-brush and a tube of eucalyptol tooth-paste. An insured domestic servant walked into one pharmacy and demanded to be supplied with a set of false teeth.

A Chemist's Wife Charged.

At Hanley Police Court on February 8, Jane Elizabeth Thomas, of 157 Leonard Road, Hanley, described as the wife of a qualified chemist, was charged with supplying a liquid containing a quantity of ferrous sulphate and of sulphate of magnesia, and thirty-six pills containing exsiccated sulphate of iron and aloes, knowing these were intended to be employed to procure the abortion of Gertrude Brown on January 21. Mary Ann Molloy, of Hope Street, Longton, the wife of a collier, was charged with aiding and abetting. Accused were remanded on bail, Mrs. Thomas in the sum of 40/-.

IRISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Brevities.

Mr. J. Edgar Connor, J.P., Ph.C., presided at the annual meeting of the Newry Chamber of Commerce last week.

At a meeting of the Louth Insurance Committee on February 6 a resolution was adopted welcoming the proposed extension of medical benefit to Ireland.

Mr. M. S. Keane, late of Messrs. McMaster, Hodgson & Co., Ltd., Dublin, has opened business as a druggist at 72 O'Connell Street, Clonmel. Mr. Keane has been the recipient of a purse of sovereigns from a number of friends on his departure from Dublin.

Mr. John McMurray Cole, Ph.C., Dungmurry, was last week an eye-witness of a fatality at the Belfast terminus of the Great Northern Railway. A man was crushed between a train and the platform and was extricated by Mr. Cole and the driver of the train, but died shortly afterwards. Mr. Cole was principal witness at the inquest.

On the initiative of Mr. T. L. Cole, Ph.C., a meeting of the Lurgan clergy, councillors, and shopkeepers was held last week with a view to bringing about a settlement of the weavers' strike which is playing havoc with the trade of the town. Mr. Cole has been working hard to end the dispute, and it is likely that his efforts will have a successful termination.

The question of drug empties frequently gives rise to controversy at meetings of Irish Boards of Guardians. The latest instance comes from Clones, when the master of the Union had raised a point as to it not being his duty to see to the packing and forwarding to the railway station of empty medicine-bottles. The Local Government Board now wrote asking why the master did not act on the instructions of the medical officer in this matter. The master said it was no more his duty to do this than to scrub the floors. He was ordered by the Guardians to furnish an explanation to the Local Government Board.

In the Courts.

At Belfast Police Court on February 8, Thomas O'Neill was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour for having stolen 2 gals. of petrol, the property of Messrs. W. Dobbin & Co., chemists and druggists, North Street.

In the Irish Chancery Division last week an application was made on behalf of the plaintiff in the matter of Bennett, deceased, John McClement, chemist and druggist, Newtownards, v. McDonald and the Wesleyan House-Mission, for the settlement of the particulars and conditions of sale of certain dwelling-houses in John Street, Wallace Street, and Church Street, Newtownards, which belonged to Joseph Bennett, and which had been ordered to be sold by order of the Judge dated November 18, 1912. The Master of the Rolls approved of the conditions of sale as drafted.

Mr. E. E. Wolfe, Ph.C., The Medical Hall, Fisher Street, Kinsale, was last week summoned on six charges by the Insurance Commissioners for failing to make the contributions required by the National Insurance Act in respect of employés during the past two quarters. Mr. J. McAuliffe, solicitor for defendant, raised the preliminary objection that the regulations of the Commissioners were invalid because there was no evidence that they had been properly authenticated by the Joint Commissioners. Mr. Horgan, for the Irish Commissioners, replied that the last-named body acting alone could have made the regulations, and that the authentication by the Joint Commissioners was unnecessary. The Chairman of the Magistrates stated that the Bench was satisfied that the regulations were duly made, and imposed a fine of one penny in each charge, ordered the contributions to be paid, and costs at the rate of 3s. 4d. on each summons.

SCOTTISH NEWS.

When sending newspapers to the Editor please mark the items of news to which you desire to call his attention.

Aberdeen.

Master N. B. Cran, son of Mr. Newell Barnett Cran, chemist and druggist, Gwelo, South Rhodesia (an Aberdeenian), has secured the fourth place in the Beit examination for Rhodesia, thus gaining a scholarship of 40/- per annum for three years.

The employés of Messrs. W. Paterson & Sons, wholesale druggists, had a most successful "At Home" in the Empress Café on Friday evening, February 7, when Mr. A. R. Horne presided at the supper, after which there were a concert and dance, the M.C.s being Messrs. Brown, Murray, Paterson and Anderson.

From the sketch plans, with relative reports, of the proposed school of engineering and chemistry submitted recently to the Engineering and Chemistry Committee of the Governors of Robert Gordon's Technical College in Aberdeen, it appears that provision is made for pharmacy and technical chemistry on the second floor of the building. The architect estimates the probable cost at 27,000/- for building. The necessary furnishings for the engineering school and school of pharmacy is estimated to cost about 3,000/-.

Dundee.

An account, by Dr. W. N. Haworth, lecturer in chemistry, of the Chemical Department of the St. Andrew's University appears in the February issue of "The Chemical World." The article contains six illustrations of the laboratory.

Following on the finding of packets of fiery chemicals in post-office pillar-boxes in Dundee on Wednesday, February 5, the police have been calling on chemists with reference to sales of phosphorus. Each packet contained two tubes, one a solution of phosphorus in carbon disulphide and the other petrol.

At the Dundee Sheriff Court on February 5, George Proudfoot, Govan, formerly an assistant in Dundee University College, pleaded guilty to taking a galvanometer from the chemistry department of the college. It was stated that the accused offered the galvanometer for sale to the firm in London from whom it had been purchased. Sheriff Neish fined the accused 1/-, with the alternative of ten days' imprisonment.

Edinburgh.

The business of Mr. C. F. Henry, 1 Brandon Terrace, Edinburgh, has been sold to Mr. Robert D. Douglas, chemist and druggist, late of Sheffield.

Notwithstanding the fact that business is better at present than for many months past, there are practically no advertisements for assistants in the local Press—an unusual feature at this time.

Edinburgh Pharmacy football team has been terribly unlucky this season. On Wednesday, February 5, after a really well-played game, Leith Police managed to score three goals against Pharmacy's one.

Insurance prescriptions seem to average (reckoning on the last month's work) from forty to fifty per week. One Leith firm has dispensed over 400 already, and another chemist in the port has received as many as forty in one day.

Glasgow and the West.

Chemists should beware of spurious coins which have become very prevalent of late, notably half-crowns and florins.

A gentleman, who many years ago was employed as an assistant in a Glasgow pharmacy, is appearing this week as a vocalist on the stage of a Glasgow music-hall.

Motherwell chemists have now come to a settlement with the local doctors for the supply of drugs to the dependents of insured persons. The terms are pretty much the same as the Insurance tariff.

FRENCH NEWS.

(From the "C. & D." Paris Correspondent.)

A PARISIAN PHARMACIST has been sentenced to a fortnight's imprisonment, and fined 80*l.*, for illicit sale of morphine, cocaine, and opium.

THE LEGION OF HONOUR.—Professor Grimbert, of the Paris School of Pharmacy, and member of the Academy of Medicine, has been nominated a Knight of the Legion of Honour.

THE POINCARÉ PHARMACY.—A Nancy correspondent writes that the pharmacy in that town, formerly owned by the grandfather of the new President of the French Republic, still stands at the corner of the rue Vieille Ville (or High Street) and the rue de Guise, in the old part of the town. The house belongs to Dr. Chéry.

"L'UNION PHARMACEUTIQUE," the organ of the Pharmacie Centrale de France, celebrates soon the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation. The journal was conducted from 1852-79 by its founder, Dorvault; from 1879-90 by Genevoix; and since then by M. Ch. Buchet, who was at that time director of the Pharmacie Centrale.

FOREWARNED IS FOREARMED.—The following notice has been posted in the corridors leading to the actors' dressing-rooms at a theatre on the Grands Boulevards, Paris, by order of the manager: "To prevent the influenza taking new victims at the 'Variétés' the artistes of the theatre are strongly recommended to take two drops of quinine in a glass of water every morning."

THE POISON-BOOK.—The severity of the measures taken in France against the sale of morphia, opium, etc., was shown at a Brest police-court a few days ago when a local pharmacist was fined 200*fr.* (8*l.*) for not keeping his poison-book properly written up. Brest is one of the seaport towns where the existence of opium dens frequented by seafaring people has caused some scandal.

CHOIR-STALL APOTHECARY.—When at Amiens recently my attention was called to the choir-stalls of the cathedral, which are considered by many to be the finest in Europe, and they include a variety of those grotesque figures in which medieval sculptors delighted. One of the most remarkable is that of an apothecary clad in the picturesque doublet of Henry VIII. and François I.'s day (the stalls were finished in 1528); he conscientiously wields his pestle with both hands, "secundum artem" in a huge old-fashioned mortar.

M. ACHILLE FINET, who died somewhat suddenly at his town residence, began life as a student at the chemistry laboratories at the Museum (Jardin des Plantes), and was subsequently assistant to M. Peligot and Professor Jungfleisch at the Conservatoire des Arts and Métiers. In 1894, following Professor Baillon's advice, he turned his attention to botanical studies, and became a great authority on orchids. He bequeaths to the Museum, besides his splendid library, a sum of 24,000*l.*, of which the interest is to be devoted to enlarging and perfecting the herbarium. He recently travelled in the Far East with a botany professor of the Museum to study the flora of Java and Indo-China.

AUSTRALASIAN NEWS.

"The Chemist and Druggist" is regularly supplied by order to all the members of nine Societies of Chemists in Australia and New Zealand, and to many other Chemists in business there.

New South Wales.

EARLY-CLOSING BILL.—This Bill was read a second time in the Legislative Council on December 3, and committed *pro forma* three minutes before the close of the session. This means that it can be introduced next year at the same stage, if the Government so desire.

IMPORTATION OF OPIUM.—At the November meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society, the proposed new customs regulation regarding the importation and sale of opium was discussed. It was then left over in order that the Comptroller of Customs might be interviewed and the regulation explained. A deputation had been received, and the Comptroller has forwarded an amendment proposed to be made to the regulation as originally drafted, which came into force on January 1. The amendment means that the chemist is to give an undertaking to his wholesale house that the opium will be used only for the purposes of medicine, and not sold for smoking. Such an undertaking, once given, is taken to appertain to all the chemist's subsequent actions.

Victoria.

WAGES BOARD.—The Minister for Labour (Mr. Murray) had on the order paper in the Legislative Assembly a motion—"that it is expedient to appoint a special board to determine the lowest prices or rates which may be paid to persons employed in dispensing, compounding, or selling drugs or medicines in dispensaries or chemists' shops." The matter was, however, deferred, owing to representations from the master chemists.

PHARMACY BOARD.—A crisis seems to be approaching in the Pharmacy Board of Victoria. The three retiring members of the Board are Dr. Farmer and Messrs. Lacey and Strutt. The two former have sent in their resignations. Mr. Strutt has informed a fellow-member that he does not intend to accept re-nomination. Mr. R. P. Francis and Mr. Ogg also intend to resign. This leaves only Messrs. Towl (who was co-opted in 1909) and A. R. Bailey, who in 1912 took the place of Mr. F. J. Bennell. The Registrar (Mr. H. W. Shillinglaw) has held office since the Board was founded at the beginning of 1877.

A HERBAL REMEDY.—The appeal in the case of John Whitfield, who was fined 30*l.* at the Geelong Police Court on September 23, 1912, for a breach of the Pure Food Act in selling pills falsely described as vegetable when they really contained a mineral, came on for hearing in December. It was urged that the section of the Pure Food Act under which proceedings were taken did not apply to drugs. If the Legislature had meant the section to apply to drugs they would have been included in the section, and not in the words "or other article or substance or compound." The Judge agreed with this view, and allowed the appeal and quashed the conviction.

PHARMACEUTICAL CONFERENCE.—The Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, of which the Pharmaceutical Conference is a section, met in Melbourne from January 7 to 14. In addition to Mr. Cowley's paper on "Organic Salts of Bismuth with Alkalies," which was

printed in the *C. & D.*, February 8, index folio 212, the same author had papers on "Solutions of Ethyl Nitrite" and "Stability of Solutions of Hydrocyanic Acid." Other papers were: Mr. J. H. E. Evans (Liverpool), on "Modern Methods of Analytical Control"; Mr. R. Tocher, Ph.C., on "Optics for Pharmacists"; Messrs. T. E. Turner and J. Wilson, "Melting Points of B.P. Ointments"; and Mr. W. G. Piper, on "Methylated Spirit for Pharmacists."

INDIA AND THE EAST.

(From the "C. & D." Correspondents.)

MR. JOHN SMITH, at present representing Messrs. Southall, Barclay & Co., Ltd., Birmingham, joins shortly Messrs. Dewars, Ltd., as their representative.

NEW INDUSTRIES FOR BOMBAY.—Recently two chemical companies have issued their prospectuses—viz., the Bombay Chemical Industries, Ltd., with Mr. T. Angus Frazer, of the Burma Chemical Industries and the Sun Drug Co., Ltd., of Rangoon, as managing agent, and the Eastern Chemical Co., Ltd., promoted by Messrs. H. N. Morris & Co., Ltd., Manchester.

MR. JAMES WELCH, chemist and druggist (Messrs. Thomson & Taylor, Bombay), was installed as Right Worshipful Master of Lodge Caledonia, 490 S.C., on Wednesday, January 22. There was a distinguished gathering, which included the M.W. Grand Master of All Scottish Freemasonry in India and Deputy District G.M.W. Bro. C. B. Robinson, E.C. (principal of Messrs. Thomson & Taylor, Bombay). The ceremony marks another stage in the progress of Mr. J. Welch as a Mason. In the past he has held office as Past Preceptor of St. Andrew's Preceptory, Past Prior of St. Andrew's Priory, Past Principal H. in Chapter 154 E.C., Past S.W. in Mark Lodge Amos. He was Secretary for two years in Chapter Rose Croix, 180 E.C., Promoter in Chapter Research, 3184 E.C., and Founder in Lodge Forman, 1066 E.C. Mr. Welch is a son of the late Mr. Welch who was for many years with Messrs. Gardner & Ainslie, Edinburgh, and was subsequently in business on his own account in Trinity.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN NEWS.

THE RED CROSS was founded in 1863 by two Swiss, Henry Dunant and Gustav Moynier, and the jubilee will be celebrated this year.

NEW SOMALILAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.—The organisation of the first Chamber of Commerce of Jibuti, French Somaliland, as approved by the French Government, is announced.

DIRECTORY FOR THE SUDAN.—Owing to the frequent inquiries which the Sudan Chamber of Commerce of Khartoum is receiving from manufacturers abroad regarding importers and exporters of various classes of goods, the Chamber is about to prepare a list of members of the commercial community.

MESSRS. HOWSE & McGEORGE, Nairobi, have completed arrangements for the opening of a branch at Kampala, Uganda, which is rapidly becoming important as the commercial centre of the Uganda Protectorate. Messrs. Howse & McGeorge hope to be able to open the branch towards the end of February. Up to the present Uganda has drawn supplies from Nairobi.

CHEMISTS' STRIKE IN ARGENTINA.—The new regulations regarding the sale of pharmaceutical products, perfumes, and mineral-waters in the Argentine Republic, which have been referred to in the *C. & D.* on several occasions, are considered much too onerous by the trade, and as a protest against the taxes all the chemists and druggists in the Argentine (says Reuter) closed their shops. The movement was supported by all the hairdressers and other tradesmen, who decided not to sell perfumes. Subsequently a conference was held on January 8 between a

commercial deputation and the Vice-President of the Republic, Dr. de la Plaza, as the result of which the latter decided to suspend the operation of the Act imposing new taxation on perfumes and pharmaceutical preparations, and appointed a Commission to consider modifications of the Act. The deputation expressed its satisfaction with this concession, and the chemists and druggists have reopened their establishments.

ARGENTINE TARIFF CHANGES.—The Argentine Executive has recommended the enactment of a measure carrying considerable reductions in the Customs duties on foodstuffs and other articles of general consumption, intended to reduce the cost of living. The following reduced specific rates of duty are among those recommended, the figures representing pesos (4s. nom.) per kilo. :

Olive oil, 0.08; paprika (pimenton), 0.015; grain pepper, 0.03; red peppers, whole, 0.02.

The following reduced *ad valorem* rates of duty are proposed:

Five per cent. ad valorem.—Artificial fertilisers, castor oil for industrial purposes, chemical products for industrial purposes, phosphorus, sulphate of lime, and impure copper sulphate.

The proposed measure, however, also provides for certain increases in the rates of duty, in the main for the purpose of guarding against a shortage in the revenue. It is proposed to increase the duty on rapeseed, cottonseed, and sesame-seed oil to 0.15 peso per kilo.

COMING EVENTS.

This section of the "C. & D." is reserved for advance notices of meetings or other events. These should be sent to the Editor by Wednesday of the week before the meetings, etc., occur.

Tuesday, February 18.

Bradford Pharmacists' Association, Chamber of Trade, at 9.15 P.M. Mr. Granville Shaw on "The Humorous Aspect of Pharmacy."

Wednesday, February 19.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Post-graduate Lecture (II.) by Professor R. T. Hewlett on "Bacteriology."

Western Chemists' Association, Frascati's Restaurant, Oxford Street, London, W., at 9 P.M. Meeting.

Public Pharmacists' Association, St. Bride Institute, St. Bride Street, E.C., at 8 P.M. Short papers by members.

Organisation Meeting for Southampton and District, Southampton, at 4 P.M. Reception at 3 P.M. A dinner has been arranged for 7 P.M.; those desirous of being present should notify Mr. H. Wilson, F.I.C., 146 High Street.

Manchester and Salford Chemists' Assistants' Association, Clarion Café, 50A Market Street, at 8 P.M. Whist-drive. Tickets (1s. 6d. each, including refreshments) from Mr. J. Grier, M.Sc., Pharmaceutical Department, The University.

Thursday, February 20.

Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W., at 8.30 P.M. "The Mode of Combustion of Carbon," by Messrs. T. F. E. Rhead and R. V. Wheeler; "The Nomenclature of the Rhamnose Group and of Other Substances Related to the Aldohexones," by Mr. H. Marshall; "Some Green Iron Cyanogen Compounds," by Mr. H. E. Williams.

West Ham Association of Pharmacists, London Tavern, Fenchurch Street, London, E.C., at 6.45 P.M. Annual dinner. Tickets (5s. each) from Mr. A. H. Cleland, 180 High Road, Leytonstone, N.E.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, Crown Room, Holborn Restaurant, London, W.C., at 7.30 P.M. Annual Cinderella. Tickets (double 10s., single 5s. 6d.) from the Hon. Secretaries, Mr. A. Haigh, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, E.C., and Mr. F. Naylor, 157 Ferme Park Road, Crouch End, N.

Institute of Ophthalmic Opticians, Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, London, W.C., at 8 P.M. Mr. Stewart Barric, M.B., Ch.B., lantern-lecture on "Strabismus."

Friday, February 21.

Royal Institution of Great Britain, Albemarle Street, Piccadilly, London, W., at 9 P.M. Mr. S. U. Pickering on "Horticultural Investigations at the Woburn Experimental Fruit Farm."

LEGAL REPORTS.

TRADE LAW.

"Boardman's" Tobacco Trade-mark.—In the Court of Appeal this week, Lords Justices Farwell, Buckley, and Hamilton are hearing the appeal of R. J. Lea, Ltd., from an order of Mr. Justice Joyce in the Chancery Division refusing the application to register the word "Boardman's" under paragraph 5 of Section 9 of the Trade-marks Act, 1905, as a trade-mark in Class 45 in respect of manufactured tobacco. The previous hearing was reported in the *C. & D.*, 1912, I., 287 and 297. Judgment is reserved.

High Court Cases.

unless when otherwise stated these cases have been heard in the High Court of Justice, London.

Boots v. REXALL.

In the Chancery Division on February 7, Mr. Justice Winifred Eady had before him an application by Boots' Drug Co., Ltd., to register a trade-mark.—Mr. A. J. Valter, K.C. (with him Mr. J. Hunter Gray), appeared in support of the motion, which was opposed by the United Drug Co.—Mr. Sebastian, on behalf of the latter company, asked that the matter might go into the witness-list, as he desired to cross-examine on the evidence.—Mr. Valter said he had no objection to that course being taken.—His Lordship said, as both parties desired, that the case would go into the witness-list and come on in the ordinary course.

W. COLEMAN'S ORDINARY SHARES, LTD.

In the Chancery Division on February 7, Mr. Justice Warrington delivered judgment in the debenture-holders' action of Watson v. W. Coleman's Ordinary Shares, Ltd. (Norwich). His Lordship said the action was brought by the holders of second mortgage debentures against the company and against the trustees, and also against two second debenture-holders who dissented from the course taken by the plaintiffs, who asked for a declaration that their debentures constituted a charge. His Lordship held that the plaintiffs were clearly entitled to sue at the date of the writ (January 4, 1912), as the principal moneys were then due. The trustees for debenture-holders objected to the action because if the first debenture-holders were parties to the action an order could not be made for the trust-deed to be carried into execution. It was suggested that no action could be taken by the second debenture-holders without they deemed the first debenture-holders. His Lordship's answer to that was that the plaintiffs were not asking for any such thing. The judgment he would pronounce would be for the execution of the trusts, and the first debenture-holders could raise any objection if they came to the Court.

LOSS OF MINERAL-WATERS.

On February 7, Mr. Justice Scrutton, in the Commercial Court of the King's Bench Division, had before him for judgment the action by Messrs. Ingram & Royle, Ltd., of Belvedere Road, Lambeth, against the Services Maritimes du Tréport, Ltd., of Great Tower Street, the owners of the steamship *Hardy*. [The circumstances of loss, owing to sodium being stowed on deck, were reported in the *C. & D.*, 1912, I., 426 and 802.] The vessel left Tréport for London on December 11, 1911, carrying 1,075 cases of Vichy Celestins and sixty cases of Cachet water consigned to the plaintiffs. She suffered under the circumstances already narrated (see *C. & D.*, February 8), and the plaintiffs claimed for the loss of the waters.

His Lordship, in giving judgment, said he found that the sodium was shipped in cases insufficiently strong for the voyage, and was stowed with insufficient care and security, having regard to its dangerous character if it came in contact with it. The ship's officers did not know the dangerous character of sodium; if they had, they would have taken greater precaution in stowage. He further found the plaintiffs' goods were lost either by perils of the sea, the entry of water causing the ship to sink, or by fire, and if they had not been destroyed by

the one they would have been by the other. The cause of the fire was the entry of sea-water, or sodium coming in contact with the sea-water. The waves broke over, acting upon sodium insufficiently stowed. He thought, therefore, that the *Hardy* was unseaworthy upon starting upon her voyage, and that that unseaworthiness caused the loss. The sodium in proper drums, properly secured, might, however, have been carried on deck. His Lordship referred at length to various authorities, and in regard to the agreement between the parties said it was ambiguous and did not protect the shippers. There would be judgment for the plaintiffs for the value of the goods, which he thought had been agreed, with costs.

Mr. Leck, K.C. (for the plaintiffs) : The amount was £1,368/- 12s. 7d.

Mr. Dawson Miller, K.C. (for the defendants) applied for a stay of execution.

His Lordship : I think you had better pay the money. It takes a long time to get to the Court of Appeal.

In the Court of Appeal on February 13, before Lords Justices Vaughan Williams and Kennedy, an application for a stay of execution was made by Mr. Mackinnon on behalf of the defendants. Lord Justice Vaughan Williams said as the question of limitation of liability was to be raised the defendants should pay the money in full to the plaintiffs, and if the plea of limitation of liability succeeded, the plaintiffs would return the balance paid them over and above what they were entitled to. Mr. Leck, K.C., for the plaintiffs, assented to this. It was agreed that the money should be paid to the plaintiffs within ten days, any balance to be returned to the defendants, plaintiffs to have the cost of this application.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

TR. QUININE AMMON.

At the Market Weighton Police Court on February 5, Mr. Francis J. Masterman, chemist and druggist, was summoned for selling ammoniated tincture of quinine which Mr. J. A. Foster, F.I.C., the public analyst, had certified to be deficient in sulphate of quinine to the extent of 28.1 gr. per pint, and was sp. gr. 0.859 instead of sp. gr. 0.923. Defendant admitted the analysis and the offence. He explained that he had made a mistake when preparing the tincture, and had used a stronger spirit than he ought to have done. The Magistrates retired, and, on their return, the Chairman said that they realised there was no intention on the part of the defendant in any way to defraud, but there had been some obvious want of care, and they felt bound to inflict a fine of 1*l.* and costs.

Veterinary Surgeons Act.

"CANINE DOCTOR."

At Lambeth Police Court on February 7, Richard Evans, High Street, Dulwich Village, was summoned by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for unlawfully using the description "canine doctor" on a brass plate on his door. For the defence it was contended that the words "canine doctor" do not imply that the defendant had a diploma or degree which entitled him to be registered under the Veterinary Surgeons Act of 1881. The Magistrate reserved his decision.

BANKRUPTCY REPORTS.

Re Stewart Wilson, 16 Station Road, Dalbeattie, chemist and druggist.—The public examination took place in Kirkcudbright Bankruptcy Court, before Sheriff Napier, on January 31, when the debtor stated that he went to Dalbeattie in July 1912 to manage a business there, his earnings being 2*l.* 5s. per week. Previously he had been in business on his own account at 481 Duke Street, Glasgow, from August 1907 until January 1912, when it was transferred to Dr. Glen, who had lent him 320*l.* to start it. A meeting of creditors was afterwards called, and they appointed a committee to see what arrangement could be made with Dr. Glen, and arranged to get a payment from Dr. Glen of 10*s.* in the pound. The doctor required to pay about 170*l.* on that account. The sum was not paid because one of the creditors raised an action against Dr. Glen and himself (debtor), and the offer was withdrawn. The offer

was made on the express understanding that the creditors were to accept 10s. in full and discharge the claims. In the action decree was passed against debtor, but not against Dr. Glen, who defended the case. Mr. Nicholson, jun., solicitor, Kirkcudbright, who opposed the petition for *cессион*, questioned the debtor, and his Lordship reserved judgment.

Re Frederick George Pascall, Market Place, Oakham, Chemist and Druggist.—The statement of affairs shows liabilities 449*l.*, besides fully secured creditor 137*l.*, rent 70*l.* 12*s.* 9*d.*, and rates 2*l.* 10*s.* The assets are valued at 164*l.* 14*s.* 2*d.*, so that after deducting the secured creditors there is a deficiency of 357*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.* Debtor alleges the causes of his failure: "Gradual falling off in trade during the past ten years through keen competition of proprietary companies, motor-cars taking the place of horses, and the bad situation of my premises for business purposes." The Official Receiver, in his observations, states that the debtor had apparently come to the end of his resources, as a distress for 67*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* arrears of rent had been levied upon his goods on January 29. The debtor, aged seventy-four, has carried on business in Oakham since 1873, when the purchase-price of the business, 450*l.*, was advanced to him by a relative at 2*½* per cent. interest per annum. The business has been declining for some time past, and there is little doubt that during recent years the profits on the sales have been barely sufficient to provide the necessary working expenses, apart from the debtor's expenses of living, etc.; notwithstanding this, the debtor did not become aware of his insolvency until pressed for arrears of rent. The Official Receiver is keeping the shop open with a view to selling it as a going concern. The public examination has been fixed for March 7.

LIMITED COMPANIES.

New Companies Registered.

The letters P.C. mean Private Company within the meaning of the Companies Act, 1907, and R.O., Registered Office.

LONDON SURGICAL APPLIANCES, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.* R.O., 180 Fleet Street, London, E.C.

MANOR REMEDIES CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 5,000*l.* R.O., 35 Heath Court Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

BROWNS (CHEMISTS), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 400*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a drug-stores carried on at Clitheroe by the executors of the late Roger Brown.

NEUROPAL MEDICINES, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 100*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To manufacture and deal in a secret remedy known as "Neuropal." R.O., 317A Nechells Park Road, Birmingham.

H. W. HULME, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 500*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of chemists, opticians, etc. The first directors are H. W. Hulme and L. L. Thomas. R.O., 2 Duke Street, Heron Cross, Fenton, Staffs.

PRIDMORE'S, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.* Objects: To take over the business of a chemist and druggist carried on by the executors of the late W. Pridmore at Hinckley, Leicestershire, as "T. Pridmore & Nephew."

PERCY D. M. RUDALL LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 500*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of a drug-store proprietor carried on by P. D. M. Rudall at Keyham, Devonport. The first directors are P. D. M. Rudall and Mrs. E. Rudall.

MOORHEADS, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To take over the business of a vendor of patent medicines carried on by C. W. Moorhead at Sheerness and elsewhere. C. W. Moorhead is the first director.

WHITE & CO. (CASH CHEMISTS), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 1,000*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of druggists as formerly carried on by J. H. Smith at 20 Gravelley Hill, Birmingham, as White & Co. The first director is J. H. Smith. R.O., 20 Gravelley Hill, Birmingham.

FRENCH'S DRUG-STORES, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 200*l.* Objects: To take over the business of a chemist and druggist, patent-medicine vendor, etc., carried on by H. F. French at 5 The Parade, Dagenham. The first directors are H. F. French and Mrs. E. M. French. R.O., as above.

BRODRIBB, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 500*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of retail, wholesale, and manufacturing chemists and druggists, and to adopt an agreement with J. Douglas. The first directors are J. Douglas and G. H. Jones. R.O., 344 Mare Street, Hackney, London, N.E.

H. VINE & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 500*l.* Objects: To take over the business of chemists and druggists carried on at Wedmore, Somerset, as "H. Vine & Co.," and to adopt an agreement with E. Whineray, pharmacist, who is the

first director. R.O., 8 Stafford Street, Old Bond Street, London, W.

SICILIA CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 14*l.* Objects: To carry on in England, Italy, or elsewhere the business of chemical manufacturers, manufacturers of extracts and essences, and of materials for confectionery, etc. The first directors are E. J. Boake, F. M. Roberts, and F. W. Lewis. R.O., Carpenter's Road, Stratford, London, E.

M. HEINRICH CO. (LONDON), LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in medicines and medicinal and toilet preparations, perfumes, and appliances, etc. The first directors are J. Field (permanent chairman and governing director), Dr. James M. Rainey, R. M. Merian, J. Sutter, and G. Alexander.

TRIVALIN, LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 10,000*l.* Objects: To carry on the business of chemists and druggists, etc., and to adopt agreements (1) with the Saccharin Fabrik Aktiengesellschaft and Theodor Teichgraeber for the sale to the company of certain patents and trade-marks; and (2) with the Saccharin Corporation, Ltd., appointing the said Corporation sole agents for the sale of Travalin preparations in the U.K. and British Colonies and possessions. The subscribers are R. H. Greeff and J. Cross. R.O., 10 Arthur Street, London, E.C.

OLIVER PRAGNELL & CO., LTD. (P.C.)—Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (9,000 preference). Objects: To take over the business of Oliver Pragnell & Co., colour, paint, and varnish manufacturers, drysalters, druggists, etc., Broadmead and Albert Road, St. Philip's, Bristol. The first directors are E. H. Fitche (chairman), W. E. I. Lambert, and M. O. Pragnell. Mrs. Martha Pragnell has the right to appoint the chairman while she holds half the issued capital. R.O., 25-27 Broadmead, Bristol.

Company News.

PRICE'S PATENT CANDLE CO., LTD.—The directors recommend a dividend of 1*l.* 5*s.* per share.

PHARMACEUTICAL DEFENCE, LTD.—A general meeting of this company will be held at 72 Great Russell Street, London, W.C., on March 5, at 4 p.m., to receive the liquidator's accounts as to the winding-up.

KEMBALL BISHOP & CO., LTD.—The directors announce a dividend of 7 per cent. on the ordinary shares for the past year, placing 366*l.* to leaseholds redemption account, 1,500*l.* to plant, etc., renewal fund, 8,306*l.* to reserve, writing 3,500*l.* off trade investments, and carrying 1,216*l.* forward.

DAVID THOM & CO., LTD.—The report for the year ended December 31 shows that, after charging 400*l.* to depreciation, the directors recommend a dividend of 2*½* per cent. for the year on the preference shares, carrying forward 864*l.* The directors state that the high prices of tallow and materials have prevented an increased profit, since the selling price of soap is unaltered.

T. & H. SMITH, LTD.—Mr. Donald Mackenzie presided at the ninth annual meeting of the shareholders of this company held at Edinburgh on Monday. In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman referred to the satisfactory nature of the year's trading. Considerably more profits were realised, notwithstanding the increased cost of production. Depreciation of the old works at Canonmills was placed at 500*l.* The reserve fund had been increased by 2,500*l.* thereby raising this fund to 7,500*l.* In addition to the payment of the 5 per cent. preference dividend for the year, it was resolved to set aside 1,165*l.* as bonus to members of the staff, to pay 7*½* per cent. on the ordinary shares, and to carry forward 1,333*l.* 4*s.* The report was adopted; Mr. Billinghurst, retiring director, was re-elected, and Rattray Bros., Alexander & France, C.A., were re-elected auditors.

VENO DRUG CO., LTD.—The report of the directors for 1912 shows gross profit 10,863*l.*, and with last year's balance 11,406*l.* From this has to be deducted the governing director's remuneration and income-tax, leaving a balance available for dividend of 9,794*l.* The directors recommend payment of a dividend for the year at the rate of 15 per cent., less tax, transfer of 2,000*l.* to the special reserve account, and to carry forward 2,144*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* The slight decrease in the profits is attributed to the fact that an additional expenditure of over 7,000*l.* in respect of advertising was made during the year, the full benefit of which will accrue to the company during the current and subsequent years. In consequence of the resignation of Mr. David Jackson, and of the fact that Mr. John Varney does not seek re-election on the board, it is proposed to fill the vacancies by the election at the meeting of Mr. G. W. Panter, M.A., and Mr. G. W. Bowman. At the annual meeting on February 15 the report and recommendations were agreed to.

BIRTHS.

ASHE.—At 21 Waterloo Road, Donnybrook, on February 5, the wife of James S. Ashe, Ph.C., L.R.C.P.L., 1 Merrion Square, Dublin, of a son.

KENNEDY.—At Fernbank, Hawick, on February 7, the wife of Robert Ker Kennedy, chemist and druggist, of a son.

MARRIAGE.

DUNN—TETLEY.—At Leeds Parish Church (St. Peter's), on February 3, by the Rev. Dr. Samuel Bickersteth, James Dunn, chemist and druggist, Newton Stewart, to Vivienne Raymond, step-daughter of Mrs. Tetley, The Path, Blackcraig.

DEATHS.

CARTER.—At 4 Princes Avenue, Liverpool, on February 2, after a short illness, Emeritus-Professor William Carter, LL.B., F.R.C.P., M.D., aged seventy-six. Dr. Carter was formerly Professor of *Materia Medica* and Therapeutics at Liverpool University. He was educated at Newbury and took his M.R.C.S. and L.S.A. in 1863, proceeding to his degrees of B.Sc. and M.B. in 1864, and LL.B. in 1866. He took his M.D. in 1879 and became F.R.C.P. in 1885. He was consulting physician to several of the Liverpool hospitals. At one time he was a regular contributor to the proceedings of the Liverpool Chemists' Association, and his services to the Association were much appreciated by the older generation of its members. He was a Professor of the School of Pharmacy at the University, and on his resigning the chair of *materia medica* a division of the work was made, a professor of therapeutics (Dr. J. Hill Abram), a lecturer in pharmacology (Dr. O. T. Williams, since deceased), and a lecturer on *materia medica* and pharmacy (Mr. Prosper H. Marsden) being appointed. There was a large company at the funeral on February 6, when the University of Liverpool was represented by Professors Carey, Harvey Gibson, Buchan, Hill Abram, and Gonner, and Mr. Marsden. Dr. Charles Symes and Mr. H. Humphreys Jones attended on behalf of the Liverpool Chemists' Association.

CLARK.—At Watford, on February 7, Mr. William George Clark, chemist and druggist, aged sixty-six. Mr. Clark died from heart failure apparently following upon the shock caused by the explosion of the ingredients of a prescription he was compounding (see index folio 253).

HUME.—At 33 Blythswood Drive, Glasgow, on January 7, Mr. Robert Hume, chemist and druggist.

JESSOP.—On January 28, Mr. Henry Vernon Jessop, chemist and druggist, 71 Park Street, Walsall, aged sixty-seven. Mr. Jessop was in business prior to 1868.

NAYLOR.—At Eccleston, on February 2, after several months' illness, Mr. Frank Cottage Naylor, chemist and druggist, of Sefton, near Liverpool, aged twenty-eight. Mr. Naylor was formerly with Messrs. Cheers & Hopley, of Chester, and becoming qualified went into business at Sefton.

PRATT.—At Wharncliffe, Sheffield, on February 8, suddenly, of syncope brought on by Bright's disease, John Edward Pratt, M.D., youngest son of Mr. Henry Pratt, Ph.C., of Warwick, aged thirty-two.

PROCTOR.—At 25 East Parade, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on January 30, Mr. John Proctor, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-three. Mr. Proctor carried on a business in Westmorland Terrace. He was not connected with the firm of Messrs. Proctor, Son & Clague, of Grey Street. The funeral took place at St. Nicholas Cemetery on February 3.

RAFFLE.—On February 4, Mr. William Raffle, Ph.C., Westoe Village, South Shields, aged sixty-four. Mr. Raffle passed the Minor examination in January 1870, and the Major in July of the same year.

RATCLIFFE.—On January 26, Mr. George Ratcliffe, chemist and druggist, 7 The Parade, Birmingham, aged fifty-five.

REEVE.—On February 4, Mr. Samuel Reeve, chemical manufacturer, Cleckheaton, aged sixty-nine. Mr. Reeve was actively associated with local technical education.

SMITH.—On January 28, Mr. Percy John Smith, chemist and druggist, The Limes, Hurstpierpoint, Sussex, aged sixty-eight. Mr. Smith passed the Modified examination in 1869.

WILLS PROVEN.

MR. HENRY LANGDON. Bampton, chemist and druggist, who died on June 4, left estate valued at 1,959*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.* gross; with net personality 1,085*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*

MR. ALFRED TAYLOR. 9 Cliff Terrace, Kendal, retired chemist and druggist, who died on November 23, left estate valued at 3,434*l.* 14*s.* 7*d.* gross, with net personality 2,387*l.* 9*s.* 5*d.*

MR. JOHN HARDY BARRICK. Doncaster, manufacturing chemist, who died on November 28, left estate of the gross value of 8,106*l.* 18*s.* of which the net personality has been sworn at 2,240*l.* 10*s.* 8*d.*

MR. SAMUEL DAVIES. chemist and druggist, Norman House, Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley, who died on September 3, left estate of the gross value of 3,134*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, of which 1,308*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* is net personality.

MR. JOHN DUNN. chemist and druggist, 45 Woolmanhill, Aberdeen, and 230 Great Western Road, Aberdeen, who died on August 25, left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at 741*l.* of which 421*l.* is in Scotland.

MR. HENRY JULIUS DE MOSENTHAL. F.I.C., St. James Court, Buckingham Gate, London, S.W., who died on December 18, left estate of the gross value of 26,297*l.* 11*s.* 11*d.*, of which the net personality has been sworn at 26,098*l.* 3*s.* 11*d.*

MR. JOHN McARTHUR. F.R.S.E., Woodfield, Maplehurst, Horsham, technical manager to Price's, Ltd., who died on December 19, left estate of the gross value of 13,912*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, of which the net personality has been sworn at 13,833*l.* 15*s.*

MR. WILLIAM PINHORN LAKE. 5 Seaton Road, Higher Tranmere, Birkenhead, traveller for Messrs. J. Thompson, Ltd., Liverpool, and for Messrs. Meggson & Co., London, E.C., who died on September 22, left estate valued at 232*l.* 10*s.* gross.

MR. SIDNEY PAYNE. 20 Grosvenor Crescent, St. Leonards-on-Sea, formerly a chemist and grocer in the Market Place at Wallingford, Berks, who died on December 16, left estate of the gross value of 10,678*l.* 12*s.* 11*d.*, of which 6,964*l.* 4*s.* 11*d.* is net personality.

MR. JOHN BELLAMY. Dore House, Lordswood Road, Harborne, retired chemist and druggist, who died on November 21, left estate of the gross value of 23,541*l.* 0*s.* 10*d.*, of which the net personality has been sworn at 11,351*l.* 3*s.* 5*d.* Among the bequests is one of 100*l.* to the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society.

MR. EDWARD ALSTON BEVAN. 4 Victoria Road, Sidcup, managing director of the Produce Brokers' Co., Ltd., 29 Great St. Helen's, London, E.C., who died on December 29, left estate of the gross value of 15,171*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, of which 14,545*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* is net personality.

MR. SIDNEY ROBERT JOHNSON. 58 Gloucester Gardens, Paddington, London, W., a partner since 1897 in the firm of Messrs. T. Merry & Son, drug-brokers, 139 Fenchurch Street, E.C., who died on January 20, left estate valued for probate at 357*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.* gross, with net personality *nihil*.

MR. FREDERICK BROICHER. 136 Tulse Hill, London, S.W., of 1 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C., and of Sinzig-on-Rhine, who died on January 14, left property provisionally valued for probate at 50,000*l.* His partner, Mr. Frederick Williams, and his son, Mr. Carl Antonius Wolfgang Broicher, having renounced probate, Letters of Administration with the will annexed of his property have been granted to his widow, Mrs. Pauline Broicher, as residuary legatee. The testator left 20,000*l.* to his daughter, Henriette Antoine Adelaide Margarethe Broicher; 10,000*l.* to his wife, Mrs. Pauline Broicher, and to her the use for life of such one of his houses, 136 Tulse Hill, or either of the two houses at Sinzig, with the household effects pertaining thereto, as she may select; and, subject thereto, he left his Tulse Hill house to his son Carl, and a house at Sinzig to each of his children Henrietta and Friedrich. He left 5,000*l.* to each of his sons Friedrich Wilhelm Broicher and Carl Antonius Wolfgang Broicher, and all other his property to his wife absolutely.

National Health Insurance.

Administration of Medical Benefit as regards Chemists' Interests.

Pricing Problems.

Insurance prescriptions received by "C. & D." subscribers and submitted to us for pricing, because of exceptional or new points of interpretation. The principles upon which prescriptions are charged for are fully explained in the article "Computation," "C. & D.," January 25, which with the ready-reckoner table is printed as a card by the Book Department, "C. & D.," price 6d., by post 7d.

1.		2.	
Emp. canthar. 12 x 6 ... 10d. (on emp. adhesiv.) ... 3d. Dispensing-fee ... 4d.		Quin. sulph. gr. iv. ... $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Mist. spt. vini galliei 5vij. 1s. 4d. Dispensing-fee, includ- ing emulsion ... 4d.	
3.		4.	
Caron oil Oj. ... 6½d. Dispensing fee ... 3d.		Chloroform (D. & F.) $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. 2s. 3½d.	
5.		6.	
Emule. ol. morrh. 5vij. ... 6d. 3ij. t.d.s. Dispensing-fee, includ- ing emulsion ... 4d.		Diuretin (Knoll) gr. x. 2s. 4d. Mitte xxiv. Dispensing-fee 4d.	
7.		8.	
Ok. ricini. 3ss. ... $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Take immediately. ...		Oil petroeli (medicinal) 1 gallon ... 1s. 8d. Cap. 3j. bis die.	
9.		10.	
Ung. Lassar. 3j. ... 1½d. Dispensing-fee doubtful.		Lin. pot. iod. c. sap. 5iss. 5d. Dispensing-fee ... 2d.	
11.		12.	
Troch. morph. c. ipecac. 5j. 4d. Dispensing-fee ... 5d.		Perl. apiol. miiij. ... 1s. 0d. M. tales xxx. Dispensing-fee ... 5d.	
13.		14.	
Ergotin. gr. ss. ... 8½d. Senechin. gr. ss. ... 4d. Hydrastin. gr. ss. ... 2s. 2½d. Hamamelin. gr. j. ... 6½d. Chloroton. gr. j. ... 1s. 6½d. Ft. pil. Mitte 100. Cap. i. t.i.d. p.r.n. Dispensing-fee ... 11d.		Samitas. 5vij. ... 5d. As lotion mixed with water. Dispensing-fee ... 2d.	
6s. 3d.		7d.	

Comments upon the foregoing are appended:

ADRENALIN SOLUTION.—B. S. (232/2).—For 5vij. of solution of adrenalin chloride (1 in 1,000) charge cost (1s.) plus 33 per cent. and dispensing-fee, total 1s. 6d.

BLISTER.—J. W. C. (230/35).—No 1 has to be specially spread. Not being the tariff article, charge cost of materials [emp. canthar. 10d. (*i.e.*, 15 gr. per square inch), emp. adhesiv. (*vel resinae*, 3d.], plus dispensing-fee (4d.).

BORIC LOTION.—Maskee (228/26).—For boric lotion, 12 oz., the charge is 4½d., including dispensing-fee 3d.

BRANDY-MIXTURE.—Peto (228/46).—The B.P. formula for mist. spt. vini gall. required in No. 2 prescription provides about 10 oz. at a cost of 1s. 5½d. to 1s. 8d., according to the quality of brandy and the price of eggs, say 2d. per oz.

BROMIDIA.—J. C. (232/49) has a prescription ordering 5iss. bromidia in a 6oz. mixture. The cost of bromidia is 110s. per doz.—*i.e.*, 110d. per 11-oz. bottle, or 10d. per oz.; add 33 per cent. to that and we have 13½d. per oz., or 1s. 8d. for 5iss. The rest by rule.

CACHETS.—W. M. W. (233/51).—The dispensing-fee for sixteen cacheted powders is 6d. apart from the prices of the ingredients. You are right as to aspirin.

CARRON OIL.—J. F. (231/31).—The charges for the ingredients of 1 pint of caron oil in No. 3 are lime-water 1½d. and linseed oil (at 2d. per oz.) 5d. Lin. calcis B.P. is in the tariff at 10½d. per pint plus dispensing-fee 3d. Some doctors prefer the B.P. to the original article.

CHLOROFORM.—E. J. H. (230/21).—No. 4 is an exceptional method of prescribing, and the tariff rules do not apply to liquids by weight. A ¼ lb. bottle at wholesale list price is 1s. 3½d. plus a third=2s. 3½d. On the other hand, if the tariff rule for liquids heavier than water is followed, the fl. oz. price is 9d., and ¼ lb.=2½ fl. oz., therefore 2s. would be the charge by this method. As chloroform is not a preparation *sui generis* with mixtures, paints, etc., no dispensing-fee is allowed.

COD-LIVER OIL EMULSION.—J. A. H. (225/50).—The dispensing-fee allowed for No. 5 is 4d.—*i.e.*, liquid preparation 2d. and emulsion 2d.

COLOURINGS.—W. G. (230/54).—See under this title in C. & D., February 8, index folio 221. Mist. CRETE in mixture.—See "Stock mixtures" same issue, index folio 220. BELLADONNA-PLASTER on red felt.—See C. & D., February 1, pricing problem No. 10, but in your case charge 25 per cent. on Maw's list price as per agreement on your tariff.

DIURETIN.—J. L. (230/72).—The drug for No. 6 costs 3s. 4d. per oz., the rate for the apothecaries' ounce being 4s. 8d.

DOSE PRESCRIPTIONS.—Sammy (229/52) asks if, in pricing prescriptions with ingredients ordered by the dose, with such directions as "Mitte 5vij." he is to write the full quantities of all the ingredients used, and the prices opposite these. [That is correct accountancy. Anyway, a careful dispenser, before compounding a mixture of that kind, will calculate and write down the quantities required, so that pricing of these should be a natural sequence. Do this on Form B first.]

DRACHM RATE.—J. L. (229/63).—Between 15 and 109 grains inclusive, of any solid must be charged at "drachm rate" to the nearest ½d. up or down. Thus, quinine sulphate gr. xv. will be 2½d. ÷ 4 = 5d., or ½d.; 18 grains works out at ¾d., so 1d. would be charged for all quantities from that up to 30 grains. Similarly, when 3ss. of a tincture is ordered, half the drachm-rate is charged.

DRAUGHTS.—J. F. (231/31).—In the case of No. 7 there is no dispensing-fee, as castor oil is not a "preparation" *sui generis* with mixtures, etc., but for mist. senne co. 3j. a dispensing-fee of 2d. is to be charged.

FIVE QUANTITIES OF MIXTURE.—P. H. D. (232/48) had a prescription for a 5vij. mixture, "Send five quantities." To save the patient the cost of five bottles he supplied a 5xxx. mixture. What should he charge the Insurance Committee? [For the ingredients in the 30 oz., plus dispensing-fee 3d. It would be different if five 5vij. mixtures had been supplied. See reply to "W. F. N." last week.]

GALLON RATE.—H. S. B. (172/10).—The only tariff mode of charging medicinal petroleum required for No. 8 is at 1d. per oz., so follow this rule until provision is made otherwise. Probably the Pharmaceutical Committee will at the audit modify such charges as this, when the money is insufficient to go round. No dispensing-fee is chargeable, as this oil, like cod-liver oil, is not, strictly speaking, a "preparation."

LASSAR'S PASTE.—W. G. (230/54).—The list price for No. 9 "Pasta zinci co." is 1½d. per oz. We say that the dispensing-fee is doubtful, because it is not listed as an ointment, and no dispensing-fee is given for pastes.

LIN. POTASS. IOD. C. SAPONE.—J. F. (231/31).—A dispensing-fee is chargeable for No. 10, as it is a liniment, although not a liquid preparation.

LINT AND WOOL BY MEASURE.—B. S. (232/2) has orders for boric lint, 1 ft., and cotton lint, 1 by 2 ft. He asks how to charge. [Weigh them, and charge accordingly. See also under "Points in Practice" re small quantities of surgical dressings.]

LOZENGES.—G. F. L. (171/40).—The ounce rate for morphine and ipecacuanha lozenges in No. 11 is 3½d. per oz., or 4d. per apothecaries' oz. There are thirty-two lozenges in this quantity, and the dispensing-fee is accordingly 5d. This is one of the tariff anomalies, which may be expected to be wiped out at the first audit.

LOZENGES AND TABLETS.—R. H. L. (230/33).—If you refer to your tariff you will see there is a dispensing-fee on unlisted tablets and lozenges, and none for listed pills.

OILED SILK.—M. S. H. (234/7).—As no rule is laid down for smaller measures of this and similar appliances quoted by the yard, you must follow a *pro rata* rule. Thus your silk is 30 in. wide, so that a yard measures 1,080 sq. in., which is 36 sq. in. for 1d., and the charge for 8 in. by 8 in. is 2d. We agree that the chemist is bound to lose by this, which is one of many things that have to be seen to at the end of the quarter.

ointment OR PLASTER?—W. I. P. (232/25) had an order for "Lint, 6 by 6 in., spread with ung. hydrarg. co." After charging for materials (lint 4d., ointment 4d.), the question of dispensing-fee arises. This should be charged. The manner of making the extension resembles that of a blister more than a plaster, and 4d. would be a legitimate charge.

PERLES.—Busy (226/6).—The price for apiol (No. 12) works out at 8d. per drachm. See our last issue in regard to acid. acetosalicyl tablets.

PIL. HYDRARG. C. COLOC., not being an official pill, is to be charged the prices of the ingredients, plus the dispensing-

fee 3d. per doz., and 1d. per doz. beyond. This is reply to T. L. W. (217/32).

PILLS.—J. H. B. (226/15).—Your pricing of No. 13 was fairly correct, except as regards chloretone. The price for forty pills should be obtained by charging for the materials in the same way (this comes out at 2s. 0½d.) and adding the dispensing-fee (6d.). If, however, the cost of materials for 100 pills is known, four-tenths this price (or 2s. 1½d.) should be accurate enough for practical purposes. This happens to be 1d. in favour of the chemist.

PRICING PROBLEMS in our issue of February 8.—In No. 23 the quantity, gr. j., was omitted, and No. 24, ½d. was left out, the price for 8 oz. of the infusion being 1½d. Several subscribers have written pointing out the latter.

“**SANITAS.**”—C. K. (231/50).—Charge No. 14 as for proprietary (*plus* 33 per cent. on cost), with a dispensing-fee.

SINGLE POWDER.—J. P. R. (231/16) and W. H. D. (229/45) writing in regard to No. 16 of our issue of February 8 (sodii salicyl. 5j.), argue that as the tariff states “for powders mixed or weighed, up to and including ½ doz.” the fee is 2d., and “all compound powders on list,” according to tariff price, that “sodium salicylate is surely not a compound powder, therefore charge a fee.” [The tariff makes no provision regarding dispensing-fee for a single un-compounded powder, it refers to “powders,” and for “powders included in the list ordered uncompounded no dispensing-fee is charged.”] By that is understood a substance in powder ordered by itself in one packet, or a single dose of a compounded powder unmixed with anything else, such as pulv. ipecac. co. gr. x.]

TABLETS.—W. H. D. (229/45).—The principles of pricing unlisted tablets were given last week (index folio 220). Tab. potass. chlor. c. borac xv. would be 5d.

“**TABLOID**” PRODUCTS.—J. F. (231/31).—For forty-eight tabloid, potass. chlor. gr. v. charge cost price (3d.) *plus* 33 per cent. Assuming that the tablet dispensing-fee applies, the total charge will be 10½d. This is more than the ordinary retail price, and is one of the anomalies of the tariff.

THYROID GLAND.—P. G. C. (232/69), writing in regard to No. 9 in last issue, says: “You charge thyroid gland gr. v. as if it was thyroid. siccum at the tariff price, but when thyroid gland gr. v. appears in a prescription it is interpreted as 5 gr. of the fresh thyroid gland. For instance, tab. thyroid. B. W. & Co. gr. v. represents 5 grains of the fresh substance, as indicated on their label, and is equivalent to 1 grain of the dried substance. Similarly, most of the well-known brands of desiccated thyroids are equal to five times their weight of the fresh substance. Therefore 100 grains thyroid gland gr. v. tablets contain 100 grains thyroid siccum and 400 grains of excipient, such as sugar, and the price accordingly should be about 1s. 5d., with dispensing-fee as usual.” [This is an important and useful memorandum. Our calculation was based on the dried thyroid dispensed as a tablet. Based on the fresh gland the charge is 1s. 5d. for ingredients and 1½d. for dispensing.]

UNGUENTA, CHARGES FOR.—W. G. (230/54) asks why ung. acid. carbolio. is tariffed at 1d. per oz. and ung. zinc. at 2d. per oz.? He says the former costs more. [The wholesale price of carbolic ointment in the wholesale list before us is 1s. per lb., while zinc ointment is listed at 1s. 2d. per lb.]

“**URGENT**” FEES.—P. H. D. (232/48) says he received after hours a prescription for hydrogen peroxide 3vj. marked “Urgent.” Is there any compensation? [Not unless a late fee is allowed.]

DUPLED QUERIES.—E. G. (206/57).—Your pricing queries are all answered by replies in this or recent issues of the C. & D.

H. H. (226/39).—See also “Simple Powder.”

G. F. L. (171/40).—See pricing problems No. 13 and 14 in last week's issue.

Maskee (228/35).—Twelve uncompounded powders bear a dispensing-fee of 3d.; compare answer to pricing problem No. 5 in C. & D., February 1 (index folio 189). Cacheting would be an additional charge of 1d.

B. S. (232/2).—See reply immediately above. Formamint tablets, twelve, cost 4½d., which, *plus* 33 per cent. and dispensing-fee (3d.), makes the total charge 9d.

Problems and queries received on Wednesday and Thursday are not dealt with in this issue.

Points in Practice.

Being questions and answers in regard to difficulties of administration and interpretation experienced by “C. & D.” readers.

CONCENTRATED INFUSIONS.—J. W. (49/223).—If the custom in your district is to use concentrated instead of fresh infusions, continue it, with the authority of the local practitioners.

PHARMACEUTICAL MEMBERS OF INSURANCE COMMITTEES are not provided for in the Act. Pharmacists who are members have been appointed as public men, and not as a pharmaceutical right. This is in reply to *Senex* (128/8).

DISPENSING SOLUTIONS.—J. W. (225/49).—If solutions of the alkali bicarbonates are used within a week or two after they are made, especially if they are kept in a cool place, they do not alter sufficiently to be noticeable in dispensing.

AQUEOUS TINCTURES.—J. F. J. (215/34).—If tinctures are ordered in Insurance prescriptions chemists must dispense the B.P. preparations, if there are any, and not the so-called aqueous tinctures, which are not tinctures in the ordinary sense of the term.

BRUSH.—W. G. (230/54) says that with tr. iodi ordered on a prescription-form, the insured patient expected a brush being supplied as well without payment. [Brushes are un-listed appliances, and, if supplied, must be paid for by the insured person.]

POISON-BOTTLES.—R. H. L. (230/33).—Insurance Committees pay for poison-bottles required by statute for all liniments, embrocations, lotions, and liquid disinfectants containing scheduled poison. Poison-bottles may be supplied in other cases on the deposit system.

COLOURINGS AND FLAVOURINGS.—O. H. (219/34) wants to know what to do when tr. aurantii, tr. gent., saech. ust., liq. rosæ, and similar flavours and colours are ordered in prescriptions. He fears that they are not medicines. Technically they are, and should be used and charged for according to tariff rules.

PHARMACEUTICAL STANDING COMMITTEE.—*Glenview* (232/3).—Constitution, C. & D., January 13, 1912, index folio 59; Scottish Committee, C. & D., March 30, index folio 480; English Committee formed at meeting in London, May 8, C. & D., May 11, index folio 673; Welsh Committee, index folio 675. For other information see the indexes to our 1912 volumes.

PRICING-SPACES FILLED.—*Sammy* (229/52) finds that the local medical practitioner manages to completely fill the form, leaving no room for pricing. He presumes it would be wiser to take no notice, but to leave that for the Insurance auditor to settle. [This is another case in which the chemist should give the doctor a gentle hint if he has the opportunity, showing him the difficulty. Do not be afraid of the doctor; he must work with, not against, the chemist.]

RURAL AREAS.—J. J. C. (230/43) complains of the unsatisfactory manner in which the mile limit works out in practice. He is situated in a place where there are several doctors. Insured persons have to come miles to see the doctors, and under the mile limit regulation the doctors supply these persons. “J. J. C.” thinks that this is against common-sense, and calls for an amendment of the regulation (No. 30). We agree, and understand that the matter is not being lost sight of.

FREE CHOICE OF CHEMIST for 1s. 6d. was never, as far as we are aware, promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. This in reply to *Glenview* (232/3). The Act and Regulations permit insured persons to go to any chemist on the panel in their district. At the interview between representatives of pharmacists and the Chancellor of the Exchequer in June 1911, the latter disclaimed ever having said that 1s. 6d. was set aside for drugs. The more recent allocation of 1s. 6d. *plus* 6d. for that purpose was in December last.

GRUMBLERS.—W. G. (230/54) says people in his district are grumbling because the chemist's medicine is not the same as the doctor's. A local medical practitioner wants to know why the chemist gets a precipitate with a mixture containing liq. bismuthi and sodium bicarbonate. [The gradual precipitation of bismuth carbonate cannot be prevented. Perhaps the doctor only sees it when freshly mixed before deposition commences. Questions of this nature are dealt with fully in “The Art of Dispensing,” pp. 370-3.]

DOCTORS IN RURAL AREAS.—*Puzzled* (226/56) says a local doctor is doing dispensing outside the mile radius, and he will not supply the dressings, etc. He wishes to know if the doctor can give an order for the chemist to supply those, while keeping dispensing to himself. [He may, but it will be at his (the doctor's) expense, he having contracted to supply insured persons free with drugs, medicines, and appliances at the inclusive *per capita* charge, and he cannot disclaim any part of the contract which happens not to please him.]

ASSISTANTS' DEMANDS.—A well-paid assistant has asked his employer (T. W. 230/35) for half the dispensing-fees payable in respect of all the Insurance dispensing done (about twenty prescriptions daily). The assistant does everything connected with the dispensing, and the employer does the counter-work. [This would add at least 10s. a week (over 20 per cent.) to the assistant's wages, and considering the size of the business and the assistant's pay the demand is

unreasonable. A fourth of the fees paid would, under any circumstances, be ample.]

NON-TARIFFED TINCTURES.—*W. M. T.* (214/73) has had prescriptions in one day including tr. aurantii, tr. valer. ammon., tr. ferri, tr. sumbul., tr. iodi, tr. colchici sem. He says: "I do think it is unreasonable to expect a doctor to order such things as above on a form designed to be used for expensive or out-of-way things. Also preparations of methyl salicylate now so much used ordered three times on green; in fact, I have not seen a pink one yet." "*W. M. T.*" suggests that the Insurance Commissioners should be approached on the matter. This no doubt will be done; but there is time enough, and patience should be exercised meanwhile.

PRESCRIPTION DEPOSITING-HOUSE.—*R. W.* (161/6) asks: Can I have, two miles away from my shop, in a populous village, a house for people to leave their prescriptions, then I send for them and deliver them when dispensed? I am told I must have a shop (or branch) before I can accept the dispensing; is this so? [If the contract with the Insurance Committee enables "*R. W.*" to supply insured persons in the village with drugs, etc., he can adopt any means he pleases for facilitating the supply; but is not the village in a rural area more than a mile from the nearest chemist's shop? If so, the doctors may prevent "*R. W.*" adopting the arrangement suggested.]

DISPENSING FOR DOCTORS.—*Doubtful* (227/16) asks: Is it correct for an unqualified dispenser (having the three-years' or more service under a doctor) to dispense medicines under the Insurance Act for a doctor who does his own dispensing and also the dispensing under the Insurance Act outside the mile limit? The dispensing is done in the doctor's surgery. [Yes. The Act does not stipulate how dispensing is to be done in doctors' surgeries, when such doctors are permitted to supply insured persons with medicine. If the doctor is a licentiate of the Apothecaries' Society, the dispenser whom he employs must be a certified assistant of the Society. This is an Apothecaries' Act provision.]

AQUA.—A Horncastle subscriber (158/40) writes: "I should be glad to know if it be correct to charge for water only when aq. dest. is ordered; in copy of regulations received it is stated that aq. dest. is not to be used unless ordered." [Chemists, like other people, have to pay for water-rates, and it is purely a matter of courtesy whether or not they will give water free. The Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, in framing the tariff, did not include water among the free things (corks, paper, etc.) covered by the dispensing-fees, but understood that distilled water would be used in dispensing, according to the best traditions of the craft. In the long run, it will pay chemists to let tap-water go free.]

MEDICAL COMFORTS, ETC.—*J. T. W.* (230/41) says: "I have had four scripts for Bovril, one for Kepler malt and oil, and six for 4 oz. brandy; all 'Pink uns.' What else could I do in the matter but supply? Perhaps you can help me in regard to charge for brandy. Also linseed meal has been a puzzler to me, having supplied about 28 lb. of it." [Bovril is not a drug or medicine, and cannot be paid for by the Insurance Committee; brandy is in the same category. Our correspondent cannot recover payment for these. As to linseed meal, see reply to another query. Kepler malt and oil should be charged the manufacturers' minimum retail price. "*J. T. W.*" should call the attention of the prescribers to the above. We may also note that chemists who have not a retail spirit-licence cannot legally dispense brandy.]

CONTINUOUS SERVICE.—*T. L. N.* (217/32).—There is nothing in the Insurance regulations requiring chemists to give dispensing service continuously during the whole twenty-four hours of the day. On the other hand, the explanatory statement issued by the Commissioners to medical men contemplates that the latter will provide medicine when it is required, and cannot be obtained from a chemist; as, for example, during a night visit or any other emergency. In our experience, prescribing doctors rarely call upon chemists after shop hours, but there are thoughtless doctors. Regulation 30 (2) enables Insurance Committees to make arrangements for the supply to practitioners on the panel of: "(a) Drugs which are necessarily or ordinarily administered by a practitioner in person; and (b) drugs and appliances required for immediate administration or application, or required for use before a supply can conveniently be obtained otherwise under these Regulations." This Regulation is intended *inter alia* to remove the necessity for chemists keeping open all night.

LINSEED MEAL.—*W. G.* (230/54) has supplied "P. sem. lini 1 lb., although it is not on the tariff list, but the latter states that drugs not on the tariff are to be calculated by the appointed method according to the price-list of Messrs. Evans

Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd., Liverpool. Now linseed meal is only listed by the cwt. How is he to arrive at the charge?" [We understand that the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee excluded linseed meal from the drug-list as an article that will not be paid for by Insurance Committees, although it is a drug or medicine recognised by the British Pharmacopoeia. There are two objections against free supply—viz.: (1) the cost would quickly exhaust the allowance for drugs, and (2) linseed meal is not a medicine "ordinarily supplied" free to patients. Nevertheless, it is technically included in the terms of the tariff, and until it is expressly excluded by the Insurance Committees chemists who supply it to the order of doctors should charge it on the cwt. basis, plus a third, divided by 112. It is desirable that chemists should inform doctors of the facts, so that they may avoid ordering linseed meal and other materials for poultices.]

AQUA.—*E. Griffiths* writes: I note that several chemists are in doubt as to what is meant by aqua, and in some towns the chemists have come to an understanding with the medical men that tap-water can be used. I think this is a mistake. Why consult the medical men about such a trifle? I take it that when the tariff was framed, note was made of the necessity of having a flat rate for the different aquæ, tinctures, spirits, pills, ointments, etc., and we all know that some of these are dispensed at a loss. Taking as an example spt. ætheris co., tr. lavand. co., tr. lobeliae ether., tr. opii, spt. menth. pip., juniper, and all the medicated waters, except aq. dest., are all when ordered dispensed at a loss. Taking a drug-list of all medicated waters, such as anethi, anisi, camph., menth. pip., etc., these are all priced wholesale at 3d., while the tariff price is about 1½d. and doubtless this was taken into consideration when the tariff was drawn up; and therefore we must charge for water, whether distilled or filtered, to counterbalance loss on medicated waters. There is little enough for dispensing now, and it is for us to see that we do not work at a loss by sailing too near the wind.

INACCURATE PRESCRIBING.—*Major* (222/39) had a prescription ordering sodii bicarb. 3ij., liq. bismuthi 3ij., with other ingredients in tablespoonful doses of an 8-oz. mixture, containing such doses also as acid. hydrocyan. dil. mij. He surmised, we think rightly, that the prescriber meant the 3ij. quantities for the whole mixture. As Insurance Act dispensing is essentially local dispensing, we consider that chemists should refer such instances of uncertainty to the prescriber without delay. It needs a little courage and exceptional diplomacy in some cases, but it is the right thing to do and chemists should not hesitate. Another specimen comes to us from *J. W. C.* (231/37). It is:

Liquor. ammon.,					
Potass. nitrat.	...	...	aa.	3ss.	
Tr. scillaæ	...	...	...	3ij.	
Aq. chloroformi ad	...	...	...	3vij.	—M.

3ss. every four hours.

Our correspondent used liq. ammon. carb. (1 in 4) and liq. potass. nit. (1 in 4). These are harmless guesses, but this is another case in which the prescriber should be referred to.

Dispensing Arrangements.

Being reports of meetings and notes on other matters from various local centres.

Bangor.—A meeting of the Llandudno and Colwyn Bay Pharmacists' Association was held at the British Hotel, Bangor, on February 5, the President (Mr. W. Hughes, of Conway) in the chair, and there were also present sixteen members and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. M. W. Lloyd, Colwyn Bay). After formal business had been transacted, members related their experiences of Insurance dispensing, and several interesting points were noted. There were only one or two instances mentioned of "reckless prescribing," and considering the area covered by the Association takes in Carnarvonshire, Anglesey, and part of West Denbighshire, this is considered highly satisfactory. At 6 P.M. in the evening the Bangor chemists, together with the Hon. Secretary of the Association, met the Bangor doctors, with satisfactory results.

Blackpool.—A meeting of the Blackpool and Fylde Pharmacists' Association was held at Blackpool on February 7. The President (Mr. D. J. Bailey) gave a résumé of the Preston meeting of January 30. It was agreed to employ always aqua dest. in Insurance prescriptions. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Clerk of the Insurance Committee pointing out that the practice of medical practitioners of writing "Rept. mist." is to be deprecated, because (1) the spirit of the Act is violated, as the patient no longer has free choice of chemist; (2) the chemist is given unnecessary labour in having to search for the prescriptions previously dispensed; and (3) it is necessary to

price the ingredients, which it is not always possible to do where the form is already filled up. The Insurance Committee are to be asked to invite chemists to send in their priced prescriptions for checking monthly.

Bradford.—A formulary has been issued by the Pharmacists' Association. The Insurance Committee have sanctioned the supply of enemas and some other appliances not on the tariff, but the chemists are objecting to deviations from the list.

Bury. (Lancs.)—A deputation of medical practitioners waited upon the Insurance Committee last week, asking for a definition of the expression "rural area" in Regulation 30. It was decided to prepare a map showing the areas in which the regulation will operate.

Carlisle.—Chemists who are on the dispensing panel are having very brisk business, and are sometimes crowded to the door, and are working night-shifts. One chemist, who is not on the panel, has issued a handbill telling the public that he is not on the panel, also his qualifications, and so on, thus:

I am a member of the Pharmaceutical Society, and when I was examined by seven examiners thirty-nine years ago for the qualification of chemist and druggist, these gentlemen placed me top of the eighteen who were examined, the Chairman, the late Mr. John Mackay, George Street, Edinburgh, shaking hands with me and complimenting me upon my abilities. . . . I am not only the oldest acting chemist in Carlisle, but I do not employ apprentices to do the dispensing—I do it myself. . . . Which is the cheaper, a bottle carelessly dispensed by a youth, with second-rate drugs, charged 1s., or a bottle dispensed by an experienced man with the best of drugs, charged 1s. 3d. or 1s. 6d.? What is the good of the best doctor if the medicine does not do its work?

Chesterfield.—A meeting of the Chesterfield Pharmacists' Association was held on February 11 at the Hotel Portland. Mr. Geo. Wright (President) was in the chair, and there were also present eight members and Mr. J. H. Toplis (Hon. Secretary). A discussion followed on Insurance dispensing, several members giving their experiences. Tariff prices were also brought up, and members were unanimous in the opinion that in Chesterfield the results of the Act at present are far from satisfactory from a chemist's point of view, partly due to the tactics of the local doctors. A report of the meeting of a deputation of chemists to the doctors was given by the President. It was proposed to have cards printed to hang in doctors' surgeries giving the names of the chemists on the panel and the hours of business.

Derbyshire.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on February 7 it was reported that the Commissioners had informed the Clerk that no appliances other than those on the schedule can be supplied at the Committee's expense.

The Devon Insurance Committee decided at a meeting held in Exeter on February 10 to appoint as a clerk to check the pricing of prescriptions, a Minor man at the commencing salary of 120*l.* a year. Mr. P. F. Rowsell (Chairman of the Medical Benefit Committee) stated that nothing had been done in regard to the appointment of inspectors of pharmacies, but he was quite sure that when they are appointed it will be no part of their duty to deal with checking prescriptions. This he gathered from conversation with the Commissioners. Mr. Taylor (of Torquay) said there would be a great deal of work in price checking, and Mr. Rowsell added that they would have to alter the 120*l.* if they wanted a qualified chemist to do the work. Subsequently Mr. Rowsell made a general statement regarding the administration of medical benefit, the choice of chemist, and the supply of appliances which are not scheduled. As to these, they had received a telegraphic statement from the Commissioners as follows: "The only appliances which can be supplied for insured persons at charge of drug fund are those scheduled. Any other appliances are outside the scope of medical benefit, and, if desired by the patient, must be paid for by him."

Dunfermline.—It is reported that local chemists have decided not to continue dispensing after the first three months, unless the fees are increased.

Halesowen.—In consequence of a letter from the Independent Order of Rechabites, stating that all the pharmacies in Halesowen are closed on the weekly half-holiday, the General Purposes Committee have recommended that chemists be asked to arrange a rota.

Hull.—The monthly meeting of the Hull Pharmacists' Association took place at the Grosvenor Hotel, Carr Lane, Hull, Mr. R. F. Jones (Vice-President) in the chair, when Mr. Selle read a paper entitled *A Talk about the Tariff*. He remarked that the tariff is so faulty that chemists should do their utmost to alter it at the earliest possible moment. He considered that the tariff is deficient in four ways: (a) in its omissions; (b) in its reckless pricing; (c) in its ambiguity; and (d) in its absurdities. Under the first head, Mr.

Selle said, no mention is made of sache, ust., ground linseed, mustard-leaves, and various much-employed galenicals. There are a number of the articles priced at only a little over cost price—*c.g.*, cocaine, quinine, and santonin. There are a few below cost price, and which cannot be sold honestly at the prices named. On the question of pricing, he further stated that infusions which are frequently ordered in Hull are not properly paid for under the tariff, and belladonna-plasters are underpriced. Tincture of iodine cannot be profitably supplied at the list price of 4*d.* per oz. The price of pills is also too small, and cachets could not be made at 1*s.* for 4 doz—the wholesaler's lowest price is 1*s.* 4*d.* On the third point there is the question as to whether tincture and liniment of iodine should be classed as paints or liniments. Again, should bismuth mixtures be considered emulsions? On the fourth point he mentioned the anomaly that for a larger quantity a smaller price is charged. A discussion followed, and Mr. Selle's name was added to the Insurance Sub-committee, which is to go into the matter of the revision of the tariff.

Leith.—At a meeting of the Leith District Chemists' Association, held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on February 7, among other matters dealt with was a communication from the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland) recommending:

That the Committee should be elected annually on the basis of a delegate from each pharmaceutical panel.

That the one-mile limit for dispensing by medical men should be extended, and that in all cases the pharmacist should have the option of dispensing medicines for insured persons except when it would be detrimental to the insured person by reason of his geographical position or otherwise.

That there should be a minimum price for each prescription.

That the minimum per ingredient should be one penny, and that flat rates for infusions, tinctures, and waters are unsatisfactory.

That dispensing-fees should be revised and increased, and that a late fee for urgent prescriptions with suitable safeguards is desirable.

That if patients offer to pay for the repetition of medicine without a fresh order from the doctor, they should be allowed to do so at the discretion of the pharmacist.

That the prescribing of proprietary articles should be discouraged.

That supplies of dressings and appliances for the use of medical practitioners should be obtained from panel chemists at tariff rates, and that appliances not on the tariff list should be paid for by the patient.

That chemists should be prepared to make arrangements in cases of contracting out, but that no *per capita* arrangement should be tolerated.

The meeting considered these recommendations, but the report does not state with what result.

Liverpool.—The following remarks are contained in a letter sent out to the medical men by the local Insurance Committee:

APPLIANCES.—It has been brought to my knowledge that some practitioners have been prescribing surgical and other appliances which are not included in the agreed drug tariff, of which you have a copy. Practitioners are apparently under the impression that, so long as such appliances are ordered on the special (pink) forms, the account will be paid by this Committee. This, however, is a mistake, since the Committee cannot make any payment for appliances other than those in the tariff.

"REPEAT" PRESCRIPTIONS.—Attention has also been drawn to the fact that, when it is desired to repeat a prescription, the practitioner has in many cases merely written "Repeat prescription," and in such cases the chemist has often experienced difficulty in tracing the prescription referred to. Insured persons have the right to go to any chemist on the panel, and do not necessarily go to the same chemist on the second occasion; in fact, it may not always be convenient to do so. Further, in cases where the firm have a number of shops, the prescriptions, once they have been dealt with, are sent to a central office for the purpose of making up accounts, and in these cases the difficulty is increased, owing to the fact that the first prescription has left the possession of the person dispensing. The Committee are desirous of curtailing the work of both doctors and chemists, but, while recognising the difficulties experienced during the provisional period, hope practitioners will do what they can to assist the Committee in the matter.

London.—The County Insurance Committee has issued its scheme for the establishment of twenty-nine district Insurance Committees, one for the City and one for each Metropolitan borough. The minimum number of each committee will be twenty-five, including one representative elected by any committee of chemists and others on the dispensing panel.

London (S.W.).—Mr. J. Keall presided at a meeting of the South-West London Pharmacists' Association held on February 5. After the business portion was completed the meeting was thrown open to a discussion on Insurance dispensing. The matter of attendance on the evening of early-closing day was also brought forward, and it was agreed that it would be wise to give attendance for two hours, from 7 to 9 P.M., for prescriptions.

Manchester.—An interview with Mr. F. W. Bates, of Brooks Bar, Chairman of the Insurance Committee of the

Manchester Pharmaceutical Association, appears in the local "City News" for February 8. He says, as his knowledge goes, the Act is working quite smoothly in Manchester. Up to the present the number of complaints either from medical men or chemists have been remarkably small.

Meltham (Yorks.).—At the February meeting of the Meltham Urban Council, a complaint was made that an insured person who had been taken seriously ill had been unable to get her prescription on early-closing day. The chemist explained that his shop had to be closed under the Shops Act. The matter is being referred to the West Riding Insurance Committee.

Middlesbrough.—A meeting of the Middlesbrough Chemists' Association was held on Thursday evening, February 6, Mr. W. Cariss (President) in the chair. National Insurance Dispensing was the chief topic of discussion, the C. & D. being constantly referred to as an authority upon pricing. A letter was read from the local Secretary of the British Medical Association asking for a joint meeting of the doctors and chemists, which was arranged for February 13, a committee of four being appointed. The question of stock and repeat mixtures was left in their hands. Up to the present everything has passed off very smoothly, and the prescriptions have been well distributed among all the chemists. At the present rate of prescribing it is thought the whole of the floating sixpence will be absorbed by the chemists. Both Boots and Taylor's open on Sunday and Wednesday evenings now.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—The Pharmacists' Panel Association was formed on January 20, and a rota of pharmacists and firms undertaking Wednesday evening and holiday duty for the dispensing of urgent medicines is now in the hands of all doctors and panel chemists in the city. Doctors also have the full list of chemists who regularly open on Sundays and the hours of service which they give. As far as Newcastle-upon-Tyne is concerned, perfect harmony and good feeling is existing between doctors and chemists, and the working of the Act is proceeding smoothly and in order.

Rural Areas.—We are receiving reports from various English centres to the effect that Insurance Committees are making arrangements with doctors in rural areas. In no case has the regulation [30 (i)] been departed from. We repeat it, so that arrangements made may be checked:

Where an insured person is resident in a rural area at a distance of more than one mile from the place of business of a chemist who is on the list, or where the Committee are satisfied that an insured person by reason of distance or inadequacy of means of communication will have difficulty in obtaining any necessary drugs or appliances from a chemist or other person on the list, the Committee may, and shall, if the practitioners so desire, make arrangements for the supply to that person by the practitioner attending him of such drugs or appliances as would otherwise under these Regulations have been supplied by a chemist or other person on the list, and any question arising under this Regulation shall be referred to the Commissioners, whose decision shall be final.

Sheffield.—The Sheffield Pharmacists' Organisation Committee has published a list of chemists on the panel, indicating fully the hours of attendance on weekdays, holidays (including half-holidays), and Sundays. It is printed on stout paper with a strong orange-coloured cover. The list, which is 13½ in. by 8½ in., is arranged to hang longways. Thumb indexes at the bottom of the sheets facilitate ready reference.—At a meeting of the local Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society on February 11 it was stated that it had been arranged with the medical practitioners that ordinary water should be used in dispensing unless distilled water was prescribed, or in the case of eye-lotions or with silver or lead preparations. It was resolved that any local arrangements made with regard to the pricing of prescriptions should be submitted to the Pharmaceutical Society. A sub-committee of pharmacists and medical men have met, and have decided upon issuing a local Pharmacopœia. Chemists were asked to render their Insurance accounts monthly instead of quarterly.

Southport.—A meeting of the Southport and District Pharmacists' and Assistants' Association was held at the Temperance Institute on February 4, Mr. Righton presiding over an attendance of sixteen. It was reported that two doctors had applied to the Insurance Committee to dispense for patients at Crossens, a village within the county borough with 300 to 400 insured persons, part of which is more than a mile from the nearest pharmacist. It was also reported that Mr. Moorhouse, the nearest chemist, had arranged to collect prescriptions left at the Crossens Post Office three or four times a day, so as to dispense and return them as soon as possible. Several members stated that they had had prescriptions on the forms of the Lancashire County Insurance Committee, and the Secretary was instructed to

write the clerk asking that Southport chemists should be put on their panel.

Staffordshire.—Several unqualified retailers have got on the dispensing panel, but the Insurance Committee has decided to remove their names and pay them for medicines dispensed up to date of the resolution, if accounts are rendered within seven days. After that date the Committee cannot undertake to pay further accounts. The Committee also considered the action of some medical practitioners at Leek, who, on payment of a small weekly sum, provide medicine. It was resolved that this arrangement is against the principles of the Insurance Act, and should be discontinued. Five representatives of the local Pharmaceutical Association have been asked to attend a joint meeting of doctors and chemists at which the question of dispensing in rural areas will be discussed.

Stirlingshire.—The Insurance Committee has granted additional applications by chemists to be placed on the panel for the county. The Clerk said that the applications could only be granted in the event of chemists already on the panel having no objections. This is to be ascertained.

Stoke-on-Trent.—At a meeting of the Insurance Committee on February 6 a member said he had heard that insured persons were told to go to a particular chemist. This is denied by the doctors. Another complaint was that insured persons were being required by some chemists to stand aside while another customer was served. To this Mr. Edmund Jones, chemist and druggist, Chairman of the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee, replied that prescriptions take time to prepare, and in some cases it is not unreasonable to ask the insured person to wait. Mrs. Lawton drew attention to a case where a man was sent to the chemist for some bandages before his injured hand was attended to. Mr. Jones replied that boxes of dressings, etc., are to be supplied to the doctors, but the chemists will not know what to put in them until the statutory medical committee is formed and definite arrangements are made. The Clerk pointed out that the medical men, in their agreements, undertook to supply drugs and appliances in cases of emergency. It was decided to call the attention of the doctors to the terms of their agreements.

The Position of Drug-store Keepers.

A deputation from the Incorporated Society of Pharmacy and Drug-store Proprietors of Great Britain, Ltd., headed by Mr. J. O'Grady, M.P., and Mr. Huntrrods (Leeds), President of the Society, waited upon the Insurance Commissioners on Wednesday, February 12, in reference to the position of unregistered chemists under the Act. The proceedings were private, but it is stated that representatives were present from Bolton, Oldham, Manchester, Accrington, Leeds, Sheffield, Nottingham, and London. Mr. O'Grady introduced the deputation, whose case was stated by Mr. Huntrrods, emphasis being laid upon the alleged unjust way in which these particular "chemists" are being treated under the Act. It was pointed out that the Act must inevitably break down unless a large number of drug-store proprietors, hitherto dispensing medicines, are included on an equality with the pharmaceutical chemists. The deputation asserted that precisely similar circumstances were developing at the present moment as was the case prior to the passing of the Pharmacy Act of 1868. Those circumstances were that at that time the men in business trading as chemists and druggists were included in the terms of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and admitted to the register without having to undergo the examinations subsequently laid down by the Act. Exactly similar circumstances were developing now, and unless the Act were amended or fresh regulations issued to admit drug-store people to the panels of dispensers, a similar Act to that of 1868 would have to be passed if the present Act, so far as dispensing is concerned, is to be effective.

The Commissioners, it is stated, were impressed with the case stated by the members of the deputation and promised to consider the whole question.

Our Parliamentary correspondent adds that members of Parliament interested in the case of the drug-store keepers have decided to seize every opportunity of bringing the subject before the attention of the House in the form of questions or motions for adjournment. They see no reason why an amendment of the existing Act, designed to meet this special grievance, should not be incorporated in the legislation promised by the Prime

Minister to legalise the allocation of the 1,825,000/- under clause 3 of the Act.

[We retain the description "chemist," as the same word has been used in Parliamentary questions to describe the members of the above-named Society. Use of the word in aid in the same connection is, of course, illegal.—EDITOR, & D.]

Insurance Notes.

PROVISIONAL REGULATIONS have been made by the Insurance Commissioners regulating the method of electing medical representatives to serve upon Insurance Committees. The system of transferred votes has been sanctioned.

A WRITER to the Cardiff "Mail" described the 1s. 6d. proportioned for the supply of drugs under medical benefit as "a retaining-fee" irrespective of the price of the drugs. The local pharmacists promptly pointed out the actual arrangement.

"A CHEMISTS' READY-RECKONER with British weights and money is out of the question" is a sentence appearing in various provincial papers in the North and Midlands. The chemist who is stated to have given this information could not have read the Winter Issue of the C. & D.

ANALYSIS of 100 National Health Insurance scripts dispensed in three weeks in a small mining town in Scotland: total values, 2/. 12s. 7½d.; dressings came to 9s. 10½d; dispensations—fifty-eight at 2d., seven at 3d., and two at 4d.; 12s. 1d.; average "script" value, 6½d.; no pills; no pink script. A gross profit of 8s. per week. The terms will not admit of any extra hands beyond the staff prior to the operation of National Health Insurance. Possibly I am under the mark as to amount per annum, it may increase as the public come to use facilities more.—(229/31.)

MEMBERS OVER SIXTY-FIVE.—The Insurance Commissioners (England) have issued a statement regarding further benefits payable for members of societies who were over sixty-five years of age on July 15 last. They are: (1) Medical attendance and treatment up to the age of seventy. (2) Sick pay—men, first thirteen weeks 4s. 6d., second thirteen weeks, 4s.; women, first thirteen weeks 3s. 6d., second thirteen weeks 3s. Provision has been made for a capitation grant of 1s. 6d. in respect of those insured persons whose societies fail to provide medical treatment as one of the benefits to be given.

PROPRIETARY ARTICLES IN WALES.—Mr. James B. Francis, F.R.S., (Hon. Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Insurance Committee of Wales), has sent a letter in the following terms to all medical men and chemists on the panel for the County of Denbigh: "At a meeting of the Medical Benefit Sub-Committee held at the Queen's Hotel, Chester, on Thursday, February 6, the attention of the Committee was drawn to the fact that in several cases proprietary articles had been prescribed by some of the practitioners on the panel, and had been supplied by some of the chemists who had contracted with the Committee for the supply of drugs and appliances. At the request of the Committee we have been asked to circularise the doctors and chemists, and point out that proprietaries, such as sanatogen, Eno's salt, &c., are outside the scope of the drug tariff, and are not articles for which the Insurance Committee can pay; therefore they should not be prescribed or supplied in connection with the arrangements made by the Committee for Administering Medical Benefit. Also surgical appliances outside the tariff must not be prescribed or supplied."

Authentic Incidents.

"I have arranged with a joiner to erect bunting to accommodate cards, notices, etc., now required under the Insurance and other Acts," writes a subscriber (170/37). He is an Aberdonian not altogether devoid of humour.

Daughter of a Customer to Doctor: What am I to do with this?—Doctor: Oh, take it to any of the chemists in the town. Of course, you will not get the same as I should have given you, as they are not allowed to keep it as strong as I do by law.

I witnessed a patient coming into a shop in great concern, writes W. J. H. (228/42), and saying to the chemist in charge, when presenting a prescription with the directions, "3j. ter die": "I say, Mister, does the doctor think I'm to die?" He was greatly relieved when he was told that it meant three times daily. Strange that this should recur. It will be remembered that it is an historic hospital chestnut.

U.S. BUREAU OF CHEMISTRY.—Since our Winter Issue we have received a letter from America stating that now over 100 chemists are employed in the chemical laboratory, and the total number of employés on the scientific and clerical staff is 546.

TRADE NOTES.

COUNTER-WRAPPERS are supplied free by the proprietors of Dr. Ridge's Food. See the announcement in this issue and write to Ridge's Royal Food Mills, Department C.D., London, N.

STRODE COSH & PENFOLD, chemists and opticians, Lower Union Street, Bristol, have purchased the proprietary rights of Gammon's Lozenges from Messrs. Icke & Sharp, Birmingham.

BISMUTHATED MAGNESIA.—With a three-dozen order for this preparation Messrs. Ayrton, Saunders & Co., Ltd., Liverpool, supply free for window-display a mammoth dummy, show-cards, window-slips, and display-box.

ICILMA SAMPLING-SCHEME.—The Icilma Co., Ltd., 37-39 King's Road, St. Pancras, London, N.W., notify in our advertising pages that February 15 is the last day of their Icilma cream-sampling campaign. They announce special terms for display parcels.

THE BRITISH OPTICAL INSTITUTE, LTD., is arranging to hold classes for objective sight-testing and advanced optical work in Manchester in preparation for the F.B.O.A. examination. Particulars of the classes can be had from the Principal, Dr. Max Coque, B.Sc., 345 Clapham Road, London, S.W.

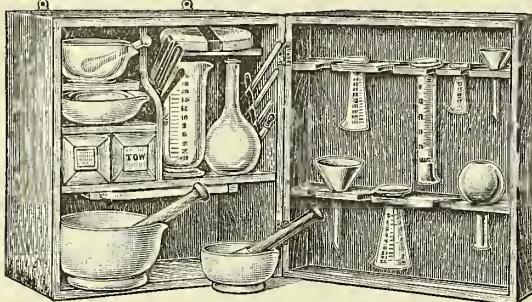
SULPHACURA is a liquid form of sulphur used in the treatment of skin-diseases or any condition requiring the employment of an antiseptic, disinfectant, or parasiticide. It is prepared by Messrs. Thomas Parker & Co., Temple Sheen Road, East Sheen, London, S.W., and besides the Sulphacura the medicament is supplied as an ointment and soap. Two booklets describing the uses of Sulphacura have been issued—one its employment in diseases of human beings, and the other referring specially to its use for horses, cattle, sheep, and dogs.

CONTINENTAL PROPRIETARIES.—When the ordinary pharmacist is in doubt with regard to the supply of a French or German proprietary medicine he usually turns to Wilcox, Jozeau & Co. for information. The revised price-list for 1913 just issued by that firm gives some idea of the comprehensive way they cover British needs in that direction. The list is, as usual, divided into two parts, one being in French and the other in English. A new feature this year is a list of ampoules for hypodermic use. Chemists who have not yet received a copy should write to 49 Haymarket, London, S.W., for one.

MESSRS. PARKE, DAVIS & CO.'S DESCRIPTIVE PRICE LIST FOR 1913-14 comes to us this week. Reference was made in our Winter Issue to the comprehensive scheme of protection which the firm have established through the Proprietary Articles Trade Association. Apart from the prefatory matter dealing with information concerning terms, cable and telegraphic code, general index, thermometric equivalents, solubilities, and other useful matter, the list is divided into two parts, the first embracing fluid extracts with information pertaining to them, standardised B.P. tinctures, powdered extracts, concentrations, pills, granules, tablets, elixirs and syrups, nebulæ, and other preparations. Part 2 is devoted to specialties, bacterial preparations, and medicine cases and chests; while a supplement of forty pages is devoted to a numerical arrangement of the leading articles. The whole list extends to over three hundred pages, and can be obtained from Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co., Beak Street, London, W., on application.

DISPENSING CABINET.—We have received from Messrs. Southall Bros. & Barclay, Ltd., Birmingham, particulars of their "N.I." dispensing outfit, which has been devised with a view to facilitating dispensing under the National Insurance Act, and enables a pharmacist to have within arm's reach, and in a handy form, the necessary apparatus for ordinary dispensing. The cabinet, which measures 16½ in. high, 15 in. wide, and 11½ in. deep, is of stained wood, varnished, and is made so that it may either stand on the dispensing-counter or be hung against the wall. The contents are: Measures—1-dr., ½-oz., 2-oz., 20-oz., graduated minim pipette, and 50-c.c.; funnels, 2 in., 3 in.

diameter; ointment tile, 8 in.; taper spatula; palette-knife, 6 in.; vulcanite knife, 6 in.; flasks, 4-oz., 10-oz.; porcelain evaporating-dishes, Nos. 0, 3, 6; glass mortar and pestle; Nos. 1 and 4 wedgwood mortar and pestle; three stirring rods; 4-oz. carton cotton wool; 4-oz. carton tow; and a packet 6-in. white filter-papers. There are



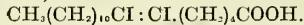
also charts for hanging up as follows: (1) Chart of solubility in water and alcohol of the ordinary dispensing chemicals; (2) chart showing weight of drugs for preparation of percentage solutions of various strengths; (3) acid and alkali neutralisation tables; (4) table for preparation of alcohol of various strengths. The cabinet, complete with fittings, apparatus, and tables, is offered at 25s. net. Supplementary apparatus, a list of which will be supplied, can also be had. The illustration shows the cabinet, of which further particulars are given in the company's advertisement in this issue.

SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS.

Temperatures under this heading are on the Centigrade scale.

Uteramine is *para*-oxyphenyl-ethylamine. It is a synthetic product closely allied to one of the active principles of ergot. It is capable of producing a strong and lasting contraction of the uterus, and is said to be only very slightly toxic.

Iodotarine.—This body is a new organic iodine derivative of tauric acid, of the formula



It melts at 49°, and contains 47.5 per cent. of iodine. It passes through the stomach without decomposition, but liberates iodine in contact with the intestinal fluids.

Elbon.—Under this name cinnamo-benzol-oxyphenyl-urea has been put on the market. It is a white powder (melting at 204°) insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol. It is an antipyretic and internal antiseptic, being unattacked by the gastric juice, but oxidising gradually with the formation of free benzoic acid and a cinnamic-acid derivative of para-amino-phenol.

Gelsemium-root.—According to Watson Moore ("Amer. Jour. Pharmacy," 1912, 305), the root and rhizome of this drug contain a small quantity of an essential oil. It also contains 3.8 per cent. of a resinous body; traces of camodin, phytosterol, ipuranol; and a mixture of fatty acids. He has also isolated from that portion of the alcoholic extract which is soluble in water, scopolamine, both free and combined as a glucoside, and crystalline gelsemine ($\text{C}_{20}\text{H}_{28}\text{N}_2\text{O}_5$), melting at 178°, and not at 160° as hitherto recorded.

Oil of Cymbopogon Coloratus.—It is stated in the report on Agriculture Fiji for 1911 that the so-called "lemon-grass," which has been identified as *C. coloratus*, Stapf., furnishes 0.36 per cent. of oil on distillation. The average yield of oil per acre is 28.72 lb. for each cutting. The best results are obtained from the mature grass, when beginning to flower, the average yield in this case amounting to 0.48 per cent. A cutting from *Andropogon Schenanthus* gave 0.24 per cent. of oil; the cultivation of this plant is being extended.

C. & D. SHOPS ACT NOTICE.—An inspector of shops under one of the County Councils, writing in regard to the notice-card which we publish for exhibition by chemists during closing hours on the half-holiday, says: "The notice seems to be as little objectionable to the shopkeeper as it can be made." We supply a pair of the notices for 8d., post free.

INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



Postal Address:

C. & D. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Telegraphic Address: "CHEMICUS CANNON LONDON" (two words).

Telephone Number: BANK 852 (two lines).

INFORMATION WANTED.

Would any reader who knows please inform us by postcard or telephone of the names and addresses of the agents or makers of the articles mentioned in the following inquiries:

- 228/58. "Gelenac": supply.
- 233/3. "Eodia": makers or supply.
- 236/37. "Bifola" toilet-paper: makers.
- 234/46. "Bombshell" cloth-balls: supply.
- 201/71. Irish slate (Lapis Hibernicus): source of supply.
- 228/7. "Dawson & Denfer's Elixir Glycerin": supply.
- 228/700. "Stomol" (or "Homol"), for acidity: makers.
- 228/39. Duhrsen's iodoform gauze, 10 per cent.: supply.
- 234/55. "Laneer" military pomade: makers or suppliers.
- 233/6. C. V. bandages (marked "Philip Marne"): supply.
- 230/5. "Rock Selipper" (solution used for constipation—administered as enema).
- 233/14. "Radioloth" (a kind of sponge covered with capsicum dressing): present makers.
- 232/62. Boxwood (or satinwood) small-tooth combs (size $3\frac{1}{8}$ in. by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.): actual makers (? French).

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

During the past week we have answered inquiries as to where the following articles are obtainable wholesale. We shall be glad to repeat the information to others who send to this Department a stamped and addressed envelope for the purpose.

- Aleptirids, 229/44
- Antileprol, 232/50
- "Ariston" cloudiser, 234/45
- Biphosphate, 229/67
- Chloros, 231/52
- Corn-flour (Russian inquiry), 226/4
- Dermene soap, 222/46
- "Enterprise" drug-mill, 230/43
- Hunt's bottle-caps, 233/35
- Herbulene, 230/64
- Joha, 232/56
- Kapp's soap, 233/37
- Kola nuts, importers (French inquiry), 230/44
- Koronium bromide, 227/62A
- Lead acetate (100-ton lots), 232/58
- Lecitogen, 228/57
- Magnetic chest-protectors, 230/4
- "Mendeesi" (metal cement), 229/74
- Omum Carpoor, 228/16
- Phenalgin, 234/44
- Pill-tubes, 232/59
- "Pluto" water (concentrated), 230/33
- "Poi" (sun�y), 152/51
- Pro Lac, 233/4
- "Red Diamond" bandages, 229/65
- "Radio" cloth, 230/18
- Renaglandin, 233/5
- Rubber gloves for surgeons' use, 226/50
- Saffron, importers, 230/3
- "Sanoid" wadding, 228/54
- Sequal's oil, 233/200
- Stock-keeping book, 228/14
- Sulphume, 232/57
- Tarocna food, 227/4
- Tinfoil, 232/59
- Tooth-powder canisters, 229/74
- Towle's pennyroyal and steel pills, 233/2
- Vi-Rosa skin-cream, 233/16
- Vitos, 234/43

APPRECIATIONS.

From Export Houses:

A firm of export merchants to whom we gave some information have sent us, "as a probable matter of interest," copies of orders they received by one mail from clients abroad for large quantities of toilet soaps and toilet specialities advertised in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST and *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*.

"Please accept our special thanks for your kind favour of 18th inst. in answer to our inquiry respecting certain disinfectants and apparatus. We appreciate very highly the trouble you have taken in regard to this, as well as recent inquiries of ours, and we are only too pleased at all times to inform suppliers that you have given us their names and addresses. We feel that this is inadequate return for your kind attention." (167/36.)

THE DERBYSHIRE PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, at a meeting on February 5, decided to take up a strong attitude against stock mixtures for Insurance Act patients.

OBSERVATIONS AND REFLECTIONS.

By Xrayser II.

The "Patents" Committee

passed peacefully away in the afternoon of Thursday, February 6, in consequence of the prorogation of Parliament. Its demise will, I fancy, be regretted by pharmacists than by the doctors, at whose instigation it was set on foot, for the amusement has afforded us probably over-balances the modicum of traction which an invincible prejudice has allowed them to receive from its inquiries. Possibly this may prove the ultimate justification for its existence. So many similar inquiries into all sorts of matters have been instituted by Parliament without direct result that it would be foolish to anticipate any serious consequences from this one, and though the Chairman spoke of its resurrection next session, it is perhaps a pious hope rather than a reasonable expectation, for if the defunct Committee has brought any fact to light it is that any evils there may be in connection with the trade in patents might easily be dealt with without this elaborate apparatus. The case for the prosecution has been fully heard, and that for the defence sufficiently so to prove the futility of the attack. The "Secret Remedies" pamphlets on which the inquiry was mainly based have been thoroughly discredited; the frankness with which Dr. Chapple's question with regard to the motives of the medical profession in agitating for the inquiry was received was its best answer; and, in short, no further witness to the fact that "patents" have real use and an ample justification seems to be needed. Most of us knew this before; we knew also that they are liable to abuse by unscrupulous people; we had indeed nothing to learn from the Committee, and we have nothing to regret as to its labours; but we shall miss some excellent reading if it is not revived.

Westminster Wisdom

is an attractive headline, but one hardly calls it an exhaustive description of what appears under it, unless "Westminster" is to be understood as qualifying "wisdom" much as "German" is sometimes used to qualify "silver." Some of the questions relating to the Insurance Act which have been put by Mr. Masterman (one of them, I notice, by a gentleman who for some time has misrepresented me in Parliament) remind me of Lord Chancellor Westbury's description of a witness from the Heralds' College as "a silly old man who did not even understand his silly old trade." Most of these questions were, it is true, put by opponents of the Act, and were evidently meant to obstruct business rather than to elicit information, but it is strange that presumably sensible men should be so ready to display their own ignorance. The folly lies, however, mainly in the attempt to defeat as far as possible the intention of the Pharmacy Acts, which were passed virtually by universal consent for the protection of the public. Do these gentlemen think that precautions necessary for their own safety are not required where insured persons only are concerned, or are they willing to stultify themselves to please a few interested people among their constituents?

The Absorption of Oxygen

by boiled linseed oil is a factor that may have considerable bearing on the effect of fresh paint on individuals. It is well known that boiled oil absorbs a very large proportion of oxygen; indeed, it is a common practice to blow air through the hot oil to start oxidation. In the manufacture of linoleum linseed oil is treated with air by a process which rapidly renders a sticky mass not unlike a turkey sponge, and this substance, mixed with cork-dust, was, and probably still is employed as the basis of the best class of linoleums. Oxidation proceeds so rapidly, especially when paint is applied with driers, that any person sleeping in a closed room newly painted runs the risk of breathing an atmosphere entirely deprived of its oxygen, and the natural result of excess of carbon dioxide is seen in attacks of

illness. Whether this is sufficient to account for the effect on the blood corpuscles, an effect usually attributed to carbon monoxide, referred to by Professor Armstrong, is another matter, but I have not the least doubt that in the absence of ventilation it must be distinctly dangerous to sleep in a newly painted room on account of the excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

"The Catching of Ads."

is a new game, and it is quite evident that proficiency in its exercise tends to health and happy longevity. Everyone who knows Mr. Henry Walker knows that he is one of the finest specimens of the optimist that can be met with, and his brimming spirits are the accompaniment of a vigorous constitution, and that he is pre-eminently an example of the *mens sana in corpore sano*. May I offer Mr. Walker my most respectful congratulations?

The Early Dislike

of "Historicus" for his profession appears to have coloured his views as to the character of the employers of long ago. To say that a man is "not altogether dishonest" is surely to damn him with the faintest of praise. It is not yet fifty years since I entered the drug business, and my experience of these far-away days must have been very different from that of "Historicus." I believe that my first employer and his contemporaries were every whit as honourable as are the examined men of to-day. In my own case I never saw but one quality of drugs, and that was the best, and I was taught that substitution is worse than a crime. To-day purer drugs may be sold, but for that little thanks to the modern code of ethics.

The Ages of Faith

were perhaps not more credulous than the present age, yet a belief in werewolves seems somehow more consistent with their mental attitude than with ours. It is rather startling to find a contemporary writer not only expressing such a belief, but defending it on the ground of "commonsense and observation," explaining the origin and persistence of lycanthropy, and giving instances of its occurrence in our own day from the mouths of living or recently deceased witnesses. This is what Mr. Elliott O'Donnell does in "Werewolves," a book just published by Messrs. Methuen. As a collection of creepy stories for a winter evening this work may be heartily recommended, but as a serious contribution to the history of a horrible superstition it is negligible. The author appears to be a thorough Paracelsian and a believer in all sorts of occult doctrines, ancient and modern. He holds that the universe was in part created by Malevolent Forces (with capital initials) antagonistic to man's progress, and that to them we owe the creation of werewolves. Lycanthropy, he tells us, is often hereditary, but it may be induced in anyone by accidental or malicious means, and he actually gives a description of the process by which a man may turn himself into a wolf if he desires to do so. As this is partly a pharmaceutical process, the formula may interest your readers. Take any seven of the following ingredients: hemlock, aloes, opium, mandrake, solanum, poppy-seed, asafoetida, and parsley, make a brew of them, drink it under a certain conjunction of planets, and there you are! You may change yourself back again, I understand, by a drink of hypericum in vinegar, or of one compounded of sulphur, asafoetida, and castoreum—or by a sprinkling of carbolic acid in solution! If you are afraid of werewolves, don't carry lilies of the valley, marigolds, or azaleas, as they "are said" to attract these monsters. The stories told of their ravages are sufficiently terrible to give point to this warning, if believed. One of the more recent of them relates to a Dalmatian gentleman with the curiously Scottish-sounding name of Dugald Dalghetty.

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Editorial Articles.

A New Epoch in Pharmacy.

VII. Caution.

MEDICAL benefit under the National Insurance Act has been working for a month, and it is generally agreed that it has worked smoothly, with few hitches, and with less dissatisfaction to medical practitioners and dispensing chemists than was anticipated. Nevertheless, caution is necessary in certain directions, particularly on the part of medical practitioners, some of whom are prescribing for Insurance patients in a manner which, while quite the thing for people with "money to burn," is sheer recklessness under the Act, with its limited appropriation for the payment of drugs, medicines, and appliances. Numerous examples of this have been given in the columns which we are now devoting to the solution of special pricing problems. These are submitted to us so that the chemists who dispense them may charge fairly and in accordance with tariff rules, but occasionally we feel that some of the prescriptions have a wider significance, and that the prescribers appear to work in the belief that they have *carte blanche* as to what they may prescribe for the patients. Nothing like this has ever been promised to insured persons, nor is it provided by the regulations, while the explanatory statement by the Commissioners to doctors advises economical prescribing. Dispensing chemists may do good public service by calling the attention of medical men to the fact that the appropriation for drugs, medicines, and appliances averages 1s. 9d. per insured person per annum, and they might get them to appreciate the fact that when the cost of a prescription is more than that the insured person's appropriation is exhausted, and others have to be drawn upon. It will be observed that in one prescription mentioned this week the doctor

orders a gallon of liquid petroleum. This can only be supplied at a cost which absorbs all the money that is paid to the doctor and the chemist for that insured person for a whole year. If this had struck the prescriber he could perhaps have given another remedy. The person is probably suffering from obstinate constipation, and if the doctor had had ordinary regard for ways and means he might have spent a few minutes more in inquiring about the condition under which the person lives, and how far that and the nature of the food and the lack of exercise have conduced to the patient's constipation. At the best liquid petroleum is a mere lubricant, and the Insurance Act provisions will not allow for constipation treatment of that nature. Patients have to be cured by the most rational methods possible, and not merely by the administration of drugs and medicines. It is practically certain that when the Medical and Pharmaceutical Committees meet at the end of the first quarter to devise some means for spreading the drug-money over all the chemists who are entitled to a share of it, and disallowing charges which are unreasonable, they will find that the majority of the practitioners have been most considerate in their prescribing, while a few others have had no regard for the money allocated. The drug-tariff, with its rules for pricing, deserves some consideration in this connection. The tariff is not perfect, but it is, on the whole, an able effort to reduce to working lines the requirements of general medical practitioners and pharmaceutical possibilities consistent with the economic considerations that the allocation of funds demands. We understand that the Committee worked upon facts and figures of prescribing and dispensing that prevailed in the industrial population, and they reckoned that the provision for drugs, medicines, and appliances—say 1s. 9d. per head per annum—would enable each insured person to get between three and four prescriptions per annum. The tariff rules do not cover all contingencies and possibilities, and that was not desirable in the first instance. There is nothing laid down, for example, as to charging for proprietary preparations, the prescribing of which is not forbidden. The examples which we have published of prescriptions, including proprietaries, do not show either abuse or extravagance. It is when doctors order 4s. 6d. bottles of this or that to be taken regularly for months by insured persons that there is room for complaint. How are chemists to price such things? There is no official rule, and the plan that we have advised is to charge at P.A.T.A. prices, if such exist, or when they form an ingredient in a mixture to supply the liquid or solid tariff rules if possible, otherwise to ascertain the wholesale cost of the proprietary and add 33 per cent. to that. But is 33 per cent. on wholesale cost the right figure? We have heard of 50 per cent. being used so as to afford the dispenser 33 per cent. of his return. Caution should be used here, for the profit to be added is only a third of the wholesale net price. This accords with the computation rules, and it is important that the utmost caution should be used in pricing not to stretch any rule so that an overcharge is likely to result; under any circumstances chemists must be prepared to have a certain amount of discounting done when the accounts come to be checked. For example, there is a dispensing-fee for lozenges amongst other articles, but no lozenge is mentioned in the drug-list. The result of this is that B.P. lozenges come out at a figure about double the ordinary retail price. If in the districts where such things happen the money provided for drugs suffices to cover these charges, no harm will be done, because they help to balance the losses or deficiency of profit upon

other items which are undoubtedly dispensed at a ruinous rate. On the other hand, if the money is insufficient, some revision of the rule is to be expected. Many other instances might be mentioned of prescribing and pricing which call for the exercise of caution in the application of the rules and regulations, because cost and methods might break down the system and discredit those who have helped to build it up. The demand for late fees leads to another soft place that should almost be ticketed "Dangerous" as well as "Caution." Every penny that is paid for a late fee comes off the 1s. 9d., which is set aside to pay for the medicine. These little extras are real pitfalls for chemists. Without regarding the possibilities which may ultimately result from too expensive working of Medical benefit, especially the chemist's part thereof, we insist on the necessity for everybody who has anything to do with this business recognising that the money provided is limited, and it can only be economically and properly used by doctors and chemists co-operating to keep within the 1s. 9d. per head.

January Overseas Trade.

BRITISH overseas trade during the first month of 1913 has made a brilliant start, and, taking the various adverse factors into consideration, is much better than could have been expected. The Returns show that while there was an advance of 4,278,500*l.*, equal to 6.3 per cent., in imports, the gain in exports was 5,028,887*l.*, equal to 12.4 per cent. Moreover, there was a considerable expansion in our re-exports, the values being higher by 1,111,325*l.* This makes a total gain of 10,418,753*l.* and taking the imports, exports, and re-exports figures together the extraordinary total of 127,395,000*l.* is reached. For the first time for a prolonged period there was a decline of no less than 2,035,706*l.* in the inward shipments of food and drink, a good deal of which is due to the lower prices ruling for sugar. This is shown from the fact that we imported 3,131,785 cwt., costing 1,878,169*l.* only, whereas in January 1912 the imports were 3,696,109 cwt., costing 3,100,390*l.* Raw-material imports were 4,808,934*l.* more, but values generally operated against us: of oil, seed oils, fats, and gums, imports were 38,376*l.* less at 3,240,158*l.*, turpentine declining from 79,946 cwt. to 13,153 cwt.; flax or linseed showed a substantial rise from 81,284 qrs. to 159,901 qrs., and the total gain under petroleum is over eleven million gallons; gum arabic declined from 6,130 cwt. to 3,497 cwt., and lac products (including shellac) advanced from 6,866 cwt. to 12,806 cwt. Imports of rubber show a remarkable expansion from 87,051 centals to 134,216 centals, while the value was 2,327,931*l.*, an increase of 829,000*l.* over January 1912. In manufactured goods there was a gain of 1,457,434*l.*, embracing practically all scheduled items, and including 85,251*l.* more for chemicals and the like, inward shipments of which were valued at 1,136,091*l.* Increases were represented by calcium carbide 25,648 cwt., boron compounds 22,936 cwt., tartaric acid 1,584 cwt., and soda compounds 784 cwt.; unenumerated chemicals 51,561*l.* The decreases included 28,552 oz. quinine, 2,655 cwt. acetic acid (other than for table use), 1,322 cwt. "bleach," 29,084 cwt. brimstone, 1,045 cwt. cream of tartar, 624 cwt. glycerin, and 1,680 cwt. saltpetre. The quinine imports were:

	1911 oz.	1912 oz.	1913 oz.
January ...	432,410 ...	319,837 ...	291,285

Quicksilver imports declined by 408,316 lb. to 61,334 lb., but the exports of the metal rose from 180,675 lb. to 271,775 lb., and the values from 19,377*l.* to 27,513*l.*

Turning to the general exports, we find that, as usual, the bulk of the increase is in manufactured goods, this alone amounting to 4,192,885*l.* out of a total of 5,028,887*l.* The advance covers practically every item, thus testifying to the widespread activity in our industries. It has been said that January was a quiet month in the chemical and drug trades, but so far as overseas business is concerned this statement is controverted by the exports of these goods, which show an expansion of 153,462*l.* as compared with 1912, but as compared with 1911 the increase is 416,066*l.*; the figures are:

	1911	1912	1913
	£	£	£
January ...	1,610,158	1,872,762	2,026,224

In the above, drugs and medicinal preparations account for 213,902*l.*, or 21,872*l.* more, but British quinine exhibits a decline of 75,795 oz., the figures being as follows:

	1911	1912	1913
	oz.	oz.	oz.
January ...	119,549	176,520	100,725

On the other hand, foreign-made quinine advanced from 9,684 oz. to 25,689 oz. Soda compounds display considerable movement, rising from 487,720 cwt. to 537,891 cwt., the greatest gain being in soda ash and caustic soda. Coal-products (not dyes) rose from 225,298*l.* to 305,600*l.*, and copper sulphate fell from 6,095 tons to 5,284 tons, and bleaching-powder from 73,847 cwt. to 59,438 cwt. The figures reveal that the consumption of chemicals abroad continues heavy, and that a decidedly good start has been made.

VETERINARY NOTES.

By a M.R.C.V.S.

Ringworm in Cat.

This is a very offensive disease too often met with in the cat unfortunately. It is very contagious to all other animals, but is believed not to be transmissible to human beings. It is easily diagnosed by the round patches varying in size from a very minute spot to that of a penny or even a crown piece. The disease always proceeds from the circumference. There may be more or less of redness of the part, and in all cases the broken stumps of the hair can be seen. The treatment is very simple, viz.: Wash the parts with strong alkaline solutions, and when dry paint with tr. iodi every alternate day. Two or three applications usually prove sufficient.

Consumption in Chickens.

This disease is invariably the result of in-breeding and mismanagement of fowls and the want of fresh blood. The symptoms noticeable are: A number of chickens may be seen moping about with a somewhat depressed and forlorn appearance, wings drooped, and beak pale and in appearance elongated, the legs latterly unable to bear the weight of the body; therefore the animal is unable to rise. The best and most practical treatment is to kill all the affected animals, as by treating they may recover, but they seldom do any good. Cod-liver oil in 3ss. doses, or in proportion to age, should be given to the others that have been in contact.

SOUTHAMPTON CHEMIST'S ESTATE.—The holograph will and six codicils of the late Robert Chipperfield, chemist, Southampton, formed the subject of an action with witnesses before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady in the Chancery Division on February 13. The action was brought by Edmund Chipperfield, his son and one of his executors, and the defendants were the Attorney-General, representing charitable interests, the Mayor and Corporation of Southampton, and Mrs. Martha Jeeves, the testator's daughter, to obtain the decision of the Court on various points of construction. The value of the estate was put by Mr. Russell, K.C., at 80,000*l.* He addressed the Court, and was followed by Mr. Sargent, for the Attorney-General, Mr. Micklem, K.C., for the Corporation, and Mr. Thompson, for Mrs. Jeeves, after which his Lordship directed the action to stand over with a view to the parties arriving at some compromise.

OUR GERMAN LETTER.

(Special Correspondence to the "C. & D.")

Sale of Alcohol.—It is rumoured that the German Government proposes to introduce, as a complete surprise, a Bill to make the sale of alcohol a State monopoly, somewhat on the Russian model. The sale of alcohol in every form would be effected solely by the State, and it is estimated that this monopoly would bring in about 30,000,000*l.* a year, assuming that the duty on alcohol were increased by 1*s.* per litre, and making due allowance for the decreased consumption inevitably following a rise in price. A confirmation or denial of this rumour must be awaited.

"C. & D." Winter Issue.—The "Pharmazeutische Zeitung" of February 8, referring to the Winter Issue of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST says: "The English trade journal THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, issues every year a special Summer and Winter Number, which is sent to all pharmacists in the English Colonies, and whoever wishes to gain an idea of the extent of the English drug-trade would do well to examine the advertisement pages of these editions. The present Winter Issue contains no fewer than 202 pages of advertisements, because few English firms allow this opportunity to pass of making themselves known in the widest circles. Moreover, the English manufacturer knows and esteems the value of advertisements more than we do [in Germany], where the consumer is always engaged in an eternal and anxious quest for sources of supply, manufacturers being too backward in their offers to consumers. There are, for example, large firms who manufacture pharmaceutical preparations, but only advertise in medical journals. The English pharmacist is, of course, at the same time a druggist, and a large number of advertisements in the pharmaceutical trade journals deal with perfumery, dental preparations, soaps, sponges, etc., while proprietary articles and specialities form a considerable part of the advertisements. THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST gives illustrations of the new drug showrooms in Cutler Street, London, E.C. More than 500 tons of drugs, including sarsaparilla, aloes, ipecacuanha, myrrh, radix calumbæ, essential oils, quinine, etc., have been transferred from the old warehouse in Crutched Friars to the new warehouse."

NEW BOOKS.

Any of these books printed in the United Kingdom can be supplied, at the published price, to "C. & D." subscribers on application (with remittance) to the Publisher, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C. These notes do not exclude subsequent reviews.

Catalogue of the Photographic Collection at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, India. 9*½*×6. Pp. 245. 1s. 11d. (Government Printing Superintendent, 8 Hastings Street, Calcutta.) [The first printed catalogue of the photographs at the Forest Research Institute, compiled by Mr. R. S. Troup, the sylviculturist. The collection consists of 1,432 photographs and 795 negatives. The prints are classified under two separate indices—(1) general, (2) geographical (India only)—each having sub-classes. The subject of each photograph is described in detail, and particulars given as to size and author. A useful publication for those who are interested in sylviculture and for authors who require illustrations of special trees.]

Dalton, G. Practical Manual of Venereal and Generative Diseases. 7*½*×4*½*. Pp. 156. 4s. net. (Kimpton, 263 High Holborn, London, W.C.) [Written in a concise style, this book deals with the ordinary diseases of the generative organs—e.g., gonorrhœa, urethritis, gleet, stricture, chancre, syphilis, and spermatorrhœa. Sterility and impotence are also dealt with, and there are two pages of prescriptions. It is a useful book for those chemists who are consulted on these matters, as it deals with modern methods of treatment, and shows that certain conditions are too serious to be attended to by other than medical practitioners.]

Henry, T. A. The Plant Alkaloids. 9×5*½*. Pp. 466. 18s. (J. & A. Churchill, 7 Great Marlborough Street, London, W.) [After an introduction of twelve pages, the alkaloids are dealt with under the following groups: Pyrrole; pyridine; alkaloids with diheterocyclic nuclei; quinoline; isoquinoline; glyoxaline; purine; alkaloids derived from aliphatic amines; alkaloids of unknown constitution. An appendix summarises the more important recent work on alkaloids.]

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Evening Meeting.

MR. E. WHITE, Vice-president, presided at the evening meeting held on February 11 in the lecture theatre of 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C. He was supported by Mr. W. J. U. Woolcock, Organising Secretary, and there were thirty members present.

POWDERED ACONITE EXTRACT.

The first paper, by Messrs. E. H. Farr and R. Wright (read by the latter), was a "Note on Standardised Powdered Extract of Aconite." The unsatisfactory character of aconite preparations was first referred to as regards their instability, faulty method of manufacture, and the fact that there is no trustworthy process of assay. Mr. J. C. Umney in 1896 found that in the case of *succus aconiti* practically no alkaloid was extracted—it was left in the marc. As regards the extract, the late Mr. W. Martindale said it was so uncertain in its action that it could be parted with without any regret. Dealing then with the alkaloidal content of aconite, the authors pointed out that it is now usual to refer to the amount of the ether-insoluble portion as a measure of the activity of aconite, and it affords a fairly accurate criterion of the clinical value. In the leaves a range of 0.18 to 0.60 per cent. T.A. has been found, whilst in the leaf extract an average of 0.43 T.A. was found by the authors. The amount of alkaloid in the root is about twice that of the leaf, and the standard proposed by the Committee of Reference in Pharmacy of the British Pharmacopœia is 0.4 per cent. of ether-soluble alkaloid. The authors had found in dry root-extract a range of 1.2 to 6 per cent., English root yielding the higher amounts.

The authors propose the following method of making the extract :

Take any convenient quantity of the drug in No. 40 powder, moisten it with a fourth of its bulk of 70-per-cent. alcohol, pack in a percolator, add more menstruum, and allow percolation to proceed until a volume of percolate equal to four times the bulk of the drug w/v has been collected. Press the marc, mix the liquids, and filter. Determine the amount of dry extract yielded by the percolate and the proportion of alkaloid contained therein. Take any convenient quantity of the percolate, mix with it an amount of the diluent somewhat less than calculation has shown will be necessary to bring down the dry extract to the required standard, recover the alcohol by distillation, and dry the residue in a shallow flat-tared dish, first over a water-bath, and finally in a current of warm air at 60° to 80° C., until the weight is fairly constant. Take the weight of the dish with its contents, calculate the added amount of the diluent which will be required, add this to the product of evaporation, transfer the whole to a dry, slightly warm mortar, and triturate carefully until thoroughly mixed. Finally, pass the powdered extract through a No. 20 sieve, transfer to a well-corked or glass-stoppered bottle, and preserve in a cool dry place.

The process of assay is a slight modification of that employed in the United States Pharmacopœia, but the authors were not satisfied with the method, some peculiar results being obtained which could not be accounted for. It was suggested that a method put forward by Mr. J. C. Umney in 1895 might be more satisfactory. This depended upon the decomposition of aconitine by complete hydrolysis into aconine, acetic acid, and benzoic acid, and the assay of the products from the result of which the aconitine content was calculated. Mr. Umney has not, however, supplied the further details at which he hinted at the time.

A table was shown of results obtained by the assay process, with extracts prepared by the authors' method. The average of five samples of dry extract from English root was 25.91 per cent., the ether soluble alkaloid in this averaging 1.95 per cent. In foreign root, the inferiority of which was emphasised throughout the paper, the average yield of extract of four samples was 30.27 per cent., with an average of 0.68 per cent. of ether soluble alkaloid. The authors propose a standard

for the extract from English root of 1 per cent. ether soluble alkaloid. The dose of this would be from one-sixth to one-eighth of a grain.

DISCUSSION.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said it occurred to him that the powdered root could be employed instead of the powdered extract, and thus a lot of trouble saved. He wondered what became of the foreign aconite-root, the bad quality of which is doubtless owing to careless collection.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES said the German root which arrives in this country is very mixed, and is probably collected in the summer; October is the best time. As far as he is aware, no English root is now cultivated, as a remunerative price could not be obtained for it. It could, however, he readily grown in the pharmacist's garden, the plant only requires ordinary soil and moisture.

Professor GREENISH said the question of including only the English-grown aconite in the British Pharmacopœia should be looked at from all points of view. He referred to the method of collecting the roots by the boys who tended cattle in the Swiss mountains, which would tend to produce a mixed product, and stated that samples of the German root examined for the Committee of Reference came out of higher alkaloidal content than those shown by the authors. The evidence obtained did not warrant the exclusion of the German-grown root. The strength proposed for the extract was rather high, bearing in mind the fact that the aim in compiling the Pharmacopœia has been to classify galenicals according to dosage. If, however, the strength of the extract were modelled on that of belladonna, it would be weaker in alkaloid than the root itself. It seemed to him that, so long as the alkaloidal strength of the B.P. galenicals was fixed, it did not matter whether English or foreign root was employed. It is stated, however, that there occurs with aconitine an antagonistic alkaloid, which is a point with others that needs studying very closely.

Mr. E. F. HARRISON emphasised the importance of the recommendation to assay by the ether-soluble alkaloid. There is another alkaloid associated with aconitine, and it would be quite possible to have a root yielding a fair proportion of ether-soluble alkaloid but not aconitine. He thought the paper tended to confirm the view that it is better to use active principles instead of the cruder products. A solution of aconitine would answer all the purposes of the official galenicals and be cheaper.

Mr. GARSEED said that if the preparations of the alkaloid were adopted it would stimulate the growth of English root, owing to the better yield.

Mr. H. DEANE said English root cannot be grown at a profit; what is produced is the result of a hobby.

Mr. WRIGHT, in reply, reiterated that the samples of foreign root which he obtained were a very mixed lot. It is important to remember that ether-soluble alkaloid and aconitine are not synonymous. It might be asked, Why have galenicals at all? The answer is that medical men order them, and not the active principles. Extract of aconite is the only galenic that can be employed in pilular form. He also explained his attitude regarding standardisation of alkaloid-containing drugs, which is to adopt it where an alkaloid of supreme importance is present. He disagreed entirely with the adjustment of the extract to meet a scheme of classifying doses; it is not part of the duty of pharmacists to make up for the lack of education in medical men.

THE "LEAD" NUMBER OF ASAFTIDA.

The next paper, by Mr. E. F. Harrison and Mr. P. A. W. Self, read by the former, was a discussion of the test for asafetida by what is known as the "lead" number, which method has lately come into prominence through the rejection by the United States Customs Department of samples of asafetida which are considered to be of good quality, but which did not answer the requirements of this test. Particulars of the test employed by the Customs Department had been supplied to Messrs. McKesson & Robbins, so that the authors were enabled to follow exactly the process. The test appears to have been introduced by Messrs. Merrill and Seil, and to have been communicated at the last convention of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. The report of the convention is not yet available, and the only publication in this country was the article in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, December 21, 1912. The authors went on to emphasise the empirical nature of the test, which would not, however, necessarily condemn it if it were supported by data that would not lead to the rejection of genuine samples of the drug. No such data are available in the case of this test, but for anything that appears to the contrary the figures

given may be those obtained from only one sample of each of the resinous substances named. Tschirch has stated that the precipitate obtained when lead acetate is added to an alcoholic solution of asafetida resin is due to the free ferulic acid, and he gives the amount of the latter as less than 2 per cent. (apparently the figure given, 1.28 per cent., refers only to one sample), which would correspond to a "lead" number of about 20, instead of 200. He also states, as Hirschsohn had stated in 1878, that the variety of asafetida known in the East as *Hing* (the usual variety being *Hingra*), obtained from *Ferula Alliacea*, Boissier, or *Ferula Asa-fetida*, Boissier and Bunge, gives no precipitate when lead acetate is added to the alcoholic solution of the resin, as it contains no free ferulic acid. The authors then applied the "lead" number test to a number of samples of what were regarded as genuine asafetida. These included some of those reported on in the authors' previous paper (see *C. & D.*, February 17, 1912, index folio 270) in connection with their sulphur-in-oil test, and other samples especially selected as typical by Mr. Holmes. The "lead" number was shown to be untrustworthy, in that it would reject several of the finest samples. The authors repeated the determination of the "lead" number in some cases to see how far experimental error might cause variation. When all the conditions of the test were kept strictly the same, duplicate results were either identical or very nearly so. If the strength of the lead-acetate solution was allowed to vary, the results varied; a solution of about two-thirds the proper strength gave numbers about 20 too low. In one case where a lead solution of half-strength was used the number was 50 too low. Some variations in the strength of the lead solution are very likely to occur, owing to more or less deposition on standing, and errors might be thus introduced. It would not be difficult to point out probable causes of more serious variations, but it does not appear worth while; the results show conclusively that the test is not one on which a decision as to the genuineness or otherwise of a sample ought to be based. The criterion which the authors have proposed, on the other hand, can be recommended from two distinct points of view. In the first place, it is probable that the medicinal and other virtues of asafetida are mainly due to the sulphur-containing constituents of the oil, and therefore the amount of sulphur in the oil, combined with the amount of oil in the drug, is an index of the actual value in use of a given sample. In the second place, both the B.P. and the U.S.P. describe asafetida as "a gum-resin obtained by incision from the root of *Ferula foetida* and probably other species"; what is to be the criterion as to which other species give a gum-resin that is entitled to be called asafetida? The only reasonable answer is that if the gum-resin is foetid—that is, if it contains a due proportion of the sulphur-containing constituents of the oil—it is included in the B.P. or U.S.P. description. The contention is, therefore, that although a given parcel of asafetida may be a mixture of gum from two or more species, if a representative sample of it after mixing contains a proper proportion of oil and that oil contains a proper proportion of sulphur, it ought to be regarded as asafetida. In other words, if the sulphur in the oil, expressed as a percentage of the real gum-resin, does not fall below a certain minimum, it is evidence of the genuineness of the drug. As to what that minimum should be, the question is more or less an open one, but the authors see no reason for departing from the figure which was suggested a year ago—viz., 1.5 per cent.

DISCUSSION.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the fact that the samples selected by Mr. Holmes as typical were rejected by the "lead" test was sufficient condemnation of the test.

Mr. HOLMES said he was grateful to Mr. Harrison for taking up the subject. Some years ago a good deal of inferior substances came over as asafetida, but now the quality is better and the price enhanced. There appear to be half a dozen plants that yield gums like asafetida, and in some cases the gums do not change colour. He referred also to the possible use of oil of garlic as a disguise for an inferior gum.

Mr. HARRISON, in reply, said that it would not pay to employ oil of garlic at its present price. It was, however, quite possible that some shrewd Bombay gentleman might be led to employ it. In that case it would be necessary to carry the test further, and to isolate the sulphur-containing constituents, and see if they had the right characters. Referring also to a jocular remark regarding the odorous nature of the work, Mr. Harrison said the research is a case of divided responsibility—Mr. Self does the work and he (the speaker) takes the credit. (Laughter.)

Refreshments were afterwards served in the examination hall.

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND.

Council-meeting.

THE Council met at 67 Lower Mount Street, Dublin, on Wednesday, February 5, Sir Wm. J. Baxter, J.P., D.L. (President), in the chair. There were also present Mr. D. M. Watson (Vice-President), Mr. G. D. Beggs (Hon. Treasurer), Dr. Charles J. B. Dunlop, Messrs. Thomas Batt, John Burnett, John Smith, and W. F. Wells.

THE PRESIDENT'S RETURN.

Mr. WATSON (Vice-President): I think, Mr. President, that before we proceed to the business of the meeting we should express our pleasure that you are able to be among us again. Personally I do so with the greatest possible pleasure; and I am sure that even without consulting the other members of the Council I can say on their behalf that we heartily welcome you back. We have watched carefully your progress since your recent illness; we have been very pleased to know that every succeeding bulletin has been more favourable; and to-day we are very glad to see that you are able to be among us again. (Applause.)

Mr. SMITH: I have very much pleasure in supporting Mr. Watson in the sentiments that he has just given expression to. I am sure we are all delighted to have our esteemed President able to take the chair once more, and I am sure the work of the Society will go on and prosper in his hands. I have very much pleasure in supporting Mr. Watson.

Mr. BEGGS: I would have immediately risen to support Mr. Watson, but I thought it was perfectly superfluous. We have you here with us again restored to health, and we are satisfied. The work of the Society, we know, is in good hands, and we have no doubt that it will be carried through to the complete satisfaction both of the Council and the members.

The PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, for these words of cordial welcome I am truly grateful. As this is the first meeting I have been able to attend since my recent illness, I wish again to thank the members of the Council for their many kind personal expressions of sympathy during that time, which I need scarcely say were highly appreciated. Let me also thank you for the renewed confidence you have placed in me by electing me for the third time as your President. My hesitation in accepting this high honour was caused not only by the state of my health, but by the feeling that I was depriving others of the position to which they had every right to aspire; and, especially as Mr. Watson has done so much to lighten my labours during my presidency, I felt it would be an injustice to him to deprive him of the honour even for another year. He, however, waived that claim, and said he would prefer to act as he had done, rendering every assistance possible to make my duties light and to leave no interest of the Society uncared for. We all know how faithfully he has done this in the past, and how the work of the Society has been loyally carried on by the active co-operation of the esteemed Treasurer (Mr. Beggs) and the other ex-Presidents of the Society. My experience has been that every member of the Council is willing to subordinate all personal considerations to the advancement of the Society's prestige and general good. (Applause.)

MEDICAL BENEFIT UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT.

A discussion took place regarding the proposed extension to Ireland of the provisions of the National Insurance Act with respect to medical benefit. The VICE-PRESIDENT

quoted the terms of the reference to the Committee of Enquiry appointed to consider the subject (*C. & D.*, February 8, index folio 225), and said that there are three Irish members of Parliament on the Committee. On the motion of Mr. SMITH, seconded by Mr. BEGGS, a resolution was passed directing the Law Committee to take all the necessary steps to look after the interests of the incendiaries of the Society in connection with the subject.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

Communications were received from the following, notifying changes in their address :

F. H. R. Brady, Ph.C., to 39 Brighton Road, Rathgar, Dublin.

John V. Kerr, Ph.C., from 14 Castle Street, Cork, to the Medical Hall, Dominick Street, Galway.

M. S. Lalor, Ph.C., to 22 Royal Canal, Phibsborough, Dublin.

W. Robinson, Ph.C., to the Medical Hall, Ramelton, co. Donegal.

Richard Swanton, Ph.C., to 61 Sovereign Street, Clonakilty, co. Cork.

R. G. Hall, R.D., to 7 Edgewood Grove, Kingston Road, Toronto, Canada.

James McCarthy, R.D., to Main Street, Kircubbin, co. Down.

PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION.

The following submitted certificates from other examination bodies, and were admitted to preliminary registration : Miss K. E. Coulter, Miss M. Kingston, Messrs. D. and J. Corcoran, P. J. McMurray, J. O'Sullivan, and A. Stafford.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letters were submitted from the Transvaal Pharmacy Board and from the Executive Committee of the Eleventh International Pharmaceutical Congress.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain was thanked for copies of the Calendar and Register.

MEMBERSHIP.

Messrs. Wm. Jas. Cooper, Ph.C., Wygram House, Wexford, and Synan Patrick Moloney, Ph.C., 87 O'Connell Street, Limerick, were elected members of the Society ; and Messrs. W. J. Balmer, Ph.C., Strandtown Medical Hall, Belfast ; J. P. English, Ph.C., Castlerea ; and G. A. McL. Lee, Ph.C., 69 Upper Sackville Street, Dublin ; and Dr. J. A. Molyneux, Ph.C., Denny Street, Tralee, were nominated for membership.

OTHER BUSINESS.

On the motion of Dr. DUNLOP, seconded by Mr. SMITH, the Pharmaceutical Licences of I. J. Eppel, H. Grainger, M. J. Parkes, Wm. Fee, F. W. Keppel, W. J. Balmer, and J. E. Savage were sealed.

On the motion of Mr. BEGGS, seconded by Mr. SMITH, Mr. James Guiler, M.P.S.I., was re-elected an examiner for the Practical Pharmacy Division of the Pharmaceutical Licence examination.

Reports were received from the following, and adopted : The Examiners, upon the Preliminary, Pharmaceutical Licence, Pharmaceutical Assistant, and Registered Druggist examinations, the Law Committee, and the House Committee.

"CURED WHILE YOU BREATHE" is the heading of the latest invaluable specific. And, to be sure, there is no life like the present.—*Punch*.

DURING 1911 the South African Government Railways purchased drugs valued at £3,863/- through the office of the High Commissioner in London.

MR. A. S. GALLOWAY, chemist and druggist, 100 Church Street, Blackpool, sends us a copy of his price-list for 1913, of which he has sent out 10,000 copies. It contains a complete list of proprietaries and Mr. Galloway's own specialities.

MR. GUSTAV BRIEGLER, of Amsterdam, has issued his annual diagram of cinchona statistics covering the years 1892 to 1912. These deal with the total shipments from Java (in kilos.), the average test of bark offered at the Amsterdam auctions, and the average unit of the ten periodical auctions. Last year the average unit was 3.81c., the highest since 1908.

WESTMINSTER WISDOM.

The Week in Parliament.

THE CELLULOID COMMITTEE.

Among those who have just given evidence before the Departmental Committee on the use, manufacture, and storage of celluloid articles are Mr. R. Robertson, superintendent chemist in the Research Department at Woolwich Arsenal, and Mr. C. P. Merrian, managing director of the British Xylonite Company.

FOOD PRESERVATIVES.

Mr. Burns announced on Tuesday that the use of preservatives in food has been, and is being, carefully considered by his expert advisers, but in their view it has not been established that such use is a common cause of appendicitis. Recently he issued regulations prohibiting the use of preservatives in milk, and further regulations would be made if and when shown to be desirable.

INSECT PESTS.

A new form in insect pests by means of poisonous moulds or bacteria is being experimented with, states "The Times," by Mr. T. Thorne Baker, who is also testing a method of employing sulphide solution, the novelty of which consists in following it up with an electric discharge, so as to liberate sulphur. Mr. C. Bathurst is to call the attention of the President of the Board of Agriculture to these experiments in a question in the House of Commons on Thursday.

ALCOHOL FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES.

On Monday Mr. King asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer the following question :

Is he aware that foreign chemical products, essential to certain British industries, are compounded of 40-per-cent. alcohol, which cannot be profitably disengaged from the product if imported ; that such products are charged duty at the same rate as beverages containing a similar percentage of alcohol ; and whether, in view of the disadvantage suffered by certain British industries, notably the electrical industry, in consequence of the duty which was originally fixed with regard to quite different articles, he will consider the propriety of altering in the forthcoming Budget the duties payable on articles of manufacture containing alcohol.

Mr. Masterman replied that under Section 7 (1) of the Finance Act, 1901, imported articles containing alcohol are charged with Customs duty at the rate applicable to the alcohol used in their manufacture or preparation. He would consider any facts that were placed before him.

INSURANCE MEDICAL BENEFIT.

In the House of Commons on February 7 a discussion took place on Committee of Supply on the vote of a sum not exceeding £1,825,000/- for grants in aid of national health insurance. The discussion was largely of a party nature. On a motion by Sir Philip Magnus to reduce the vote by 100/- Mr. Forster, the member for Sevenoaks, who was the leading Opposition authority on the Act while it was going through the House of Commons, spoke at some length, and was replied to by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who spoke for about an hour. There was nothing in the speech of direct pharmaceutical interest, but the Chancellor informed the House that there are now 15,000 doctors on the panels, and he gave particulars of the working of the sanatorium benefit, expressing satisfaction with the smooth manner in which the medical benefit provisions are working. He was followed by Mr. W. S. Glyn-Jones, who spoke from his experience as Chairman of the Insurance Committee of the Middlesex County Council. We append some extracts from this speech :

Twenty years ago I was engaged in something like the practices we have heard about in the East End of London. The hon. member for Colchester (Mr. Worthington-Evans) has said this Insurance Act has taken away from these insured persons their free choice of doctor ; they could have got doctors from 3d. to 3/- 3s. Yes, the choice was limited by the 3d. That is the answer. If they had 3d. they could get a threepenny doctor ; that was the only choice open to

them. It does not lie in the mouth of the medical profession to say these men are not fitted to be on the panel. If they are not fitted to treat these people as insured persons, they were not fitted to treat them as ordinary patients, and steps should have been taken to have had them removed from the medical register. It was not until they came on the panel we were told they were unfit.

The hon. member proceeded to criticise the British Medical Association, the Opposition, and the Carmelite Press, and then explained what the Middlesex Committee is doing as regards contracting out. In the last connection he quoted from the statement issued by medical men who are opposed to the insurance scheme. One passage in that statement is:

"By thus becoming a private, as opposed to a contract patient, a person will escape from the glaring evil of the old club practice which has been specially incorporated in the new Act, and which was a direct inducement to prescribe cheap as opposed to effectual drugs."

Twenty years ago, said the hon. gentleman, I was dispensing for a surgeon where people paid a shilling for a visit three times a week and two bottles of medicine thrown in. I know something about the old system and about the inducement to prescribe cheap as opposed to effectual drugs. The panel doctor is not looking for the floating sixpence. There is 1s. 6d. to be put into the pool. His income remains wholly unaffected. This panel doctor, this low-down doctor, this man who has lost his honour, and has done something derogatory to his profession, knows that there is 1s. 6d. to be put into the pool to provide drugs and medicines for insured persons, and that there is a possibility even of 2s. Yet we have this circular and this case put before the servant girls of Middlesex. They are told that the panel doctors are going to stink them with cheap drugs for the sake of saving sixpence, and I am entitled to warn them that the inducement to the doctor who is not on the panel will be to save the 2s. instead of the 6d. The past curse of the treatment of the poor people of this country has been that for every bit of medical material the doctor gave to a poor patient the cost came out of his own pocket. It is because this great scheme will in future provide that a doctor for a poor man will be able to write a prescription for the drugs he needs without any consideration of the cost to himself, and because he will be able to treat the poor man as he has treated the rich man, that I welcome this additional grant.

I worked in Bermondsey, and I have lived in and now represent Stepney. Compare the death-rate of Bermondsey or Stepney with that of Highgate or Hampstead. There are more persons who die in Stepney and Bermondsey. What is the explanation? The man in the street and the social reformer will tell you that Hampstead is a much healthier place to live in than Bermondsey or Stepney, because there are no nasty factories and works, no slums, and people are not crowded out. That means that it is more difficult to keep well in Stepney than it is in Hampstead. In that sense it has a great effect upon the death-rate. But there is a far bigger factor, which is that when my poor constituents become ill they do not get the same chance of recovery as the people who live in Highgate or Hampstead. I do not wish to say a word which will make it difficult for all the doctors in Middlesex to come upon the panels. We have 500 there now, which means one for every 600 persons.

The hon. gentleman proceeded to reply to the criticisms of the "Evening News" and other papers to the effect that the Act is a failure, and gave particulars regarding what is known as the Enfield case—a pneumonia case which was not diagnosed on the first visit of the doctor. As to this the hon. gentleman gave the House full particulars from first hand.

INSURANCE ACT DISPENSING.

The questions put by members of the House of Commons to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary to the Treasury during the past week would, with the replies to each, occupy several pages of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and perforce we condense them, arranging as far as possible in alphabetical rather than chronological order, but giving the date upon which the answer was given:

AMMONIUM BENZOATE is priced 6d. per oz. in the drug-tariff. The Marquis of Tullibardine asked the Secretary to the Treasury on Tuesday if he is aware of this. The Marquis assumed that the ounce is 480 grains, and pointed out that the retail price is 9d. per oz. of 437.5 grains. Mr. Masterman replied that there is no tariff under the Act applicable to every part of the country, each Insurance Committee

being required by the regulations to prepare the drug-tariff for its own area, and the prices included therein are a matter for negotiation between the Committee, the chemists, and the doctors in each area, while, as a matter of fact, the drug-tariff usually adopted is one that was drawn up by the Pharmaceutical Society themselves. [The Pharmaceutical Standing Committee, Mr. Masterman should have said. It is probably not to be expected that he should have not been able to correct the Marquis in assuming that the ounce in the tariff is the apothecary's ounce; as a matter of fact it is the avoirdupois.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

APOTHECARIES' ASSISTANTS.—Mr. Fred Hall, the member for Dulwich, wanted to know on February 10 if a certified apothecary's assistant, who has passed the Pharmaceutical Preliminary examination and compounded medicines for thirty-six years, is eligible to dispense under the Act, and if not, why? Mr. Masterman referred to his previous reply on the same subject, in which he referred to the terms of Section 15 (5, iv). On Tuesday Mr. Hall repeated the question, wanting a Yes or No reply; but Mr. Masterman wanted more exact information before replying further.

APPLIANCES.—Mr. Newdegate brought to the notice of the Chancellor on February 11 the fact that the scheduled appliances are limited, and do not include such things as kidney-belts. Mr. Masterman, in reply, said that the list is subject to revision when more experience has been gained of the working of the Act, and he has made a note of Mr. Newdegate's suggestion.

CHEMISTS' SHOPS.—According to questions put by Mr. O'Grady there are eight chemists' shops in Holbeck, Leeds, for a population of 50,000 inhabitants, but the proprietors of two only of these are on the dispensing panel, the six other proprietors being unregistered. Further, that in Oldham, with a population of 211,227, eight resident and twenty-eight non-resident chemists are on the dispensing panel, and thirty-one resident and eleven non-resident drug-store proprietors are debarred from being on the panel. To this Mr. Masterman replied that it would not be possible to authorise the supply to insured persons of medicines requiring dispensing to be arranged for by other persons than those entitled to make these arrangements under the Act. The Commissioners, however, were seeing a deputation on Wednesday on the subject. On Wednesday Mr. Masterman had to answer a question put by Mr. Touche about an unregistered druggist who has been in the trade for twenty-eight years, and in business for himself fourteen years, but is not allowed to dispense in his district, a colliery one.—Mr. Masterman said the Commissioners were receiving a deputation that afternoon.—Mr. Cassell suggested that a small Committee should be appointed to consider the numerous cases of hardship which had arisen.—Mr. Masterman: At first thought that seems to be a good idea.

DOCTORS AND MEDICINES.—Replying to Mr. Rupert Gwynne on Monday, Mr. Masterman stated that paragraph 30 (2) (b) of the Medical Benefit Regulations provides for doctors supplying surgical dressings and lotions to insured persons in case of accident, and obtaining payment for the same from the Insurance Committees.

HERBALIST AND CHRISTIAN SCIENCE TREATMENT.—Replying to Sir J. D. Rees as to herbal and Christian Science treatment, Mr. Masterman has stated that duly qualified medical practitioners alone have the right to be included in the panel list, but persons who belong to an unorthodox school of medicine may apply to their Insurance Committee for permission to make their own arrangements for medical attendance and treatment, and if such permission is given the Committee will make a contribution towards the cost of the treatment.

MEDICATED WOOL.—On Monday the Marquis of Tullibardine asked why cotton-wool only is mentioned in the tariff, and not medicated wool; to which Mr. Masterman replied that medicated wool is a variety of cotton-wool. Thereupon the noble lord stated that a certain committee has written to say that medicated wool is not on the tariff, and that therefore the patient would have to pay for it. Mr. Masterman confessed that he was not aware of the fact. ["Medicated wool" is a popular name for cotton-wool as sold by chemists.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

QUALITY. is still vexing the Marquis of Tullibardine, and in a reply to him on Monday Mr. Masterman stated that the agreement between Insurance Committees and chemists stipulates expressly that all drugs and appliances shall be of good quality.—Lord Tullibardine: Are the qualities issued the same as those under the Insurance Act tariff?—Mr. Masterman: I have never heard the expression except from the lips of the noble lord.—Lord Tullibardine: May I send the right hon. gentleman the wholesale catalogues of several firms in the country?—Mr. Masterman: The noble Lord may send them, but I do not think they would cheer me up at all. (Laughter.)—Replying to Mr. Nield on Wednesday to a similar inquiry, Mr. Masterman said there is no

sundation whatever for the suggestion that a list of drugs of inferior quality is scheduled to the regulations. Each Insurance Committee is required to draw up its own list of drugs, and the only relevant requirement of the regulations is that "all drugs and appliances shall be of good quality." In addition to the list of drugs that may ordinarily be supplied, any doctor on the panel is empowered by the regulations, when he thinks necessary, to prescribe other drugs not included in the list. So far as he is aware, there is no ground or the allegation that drugs of inferior quality are being supplied by chemists to insured persons.

REGISTRATION WITHOUT EXAMINATION.—Replying to Mr. Locker-Lampson, the Secretary to the Treasury explained the provisions of Section 4 of the Poisons and Pharmacy Act, 1908, as regards the registration without examination of military dispensers and apothecaries' assistants. He added that the Pharmaceutical Council have been pressed more than once to proceed with steps to give effect to this enactment, but the question is not free from difficulties. Mr. Masterman is in communication with the Privy Council, with a view to the matter being expedited as far as possible.

SCOTTISH PHARMACISTS.—The Marquis of Tullibardine asked the Secretary to the Treasury on February 11 to state the threat or possible danger to Scottish pharmacists which caused the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland) to circularise pharmacists in Scotland, advising them to join the panel before December 31. The Marquis added that this was contained in a letter of December 12 or 13, 1912.—Mr. Masterman replied that no threat was made or authorised by the Scottish Committee to the Scottish pharmacists. In answer to specific inquiries from the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee (Scotland), the Scottish Commissioners explained to them that it would be their duty to authorise Insurance Committees to make arrangements for the supply of medicines to insured persons otherwise than through a panel of chemists if in any area no adequate panel was formed. In reply to further interrogatories, Mr. Masterman said he did not think there was any suggestion that they were to set up a "State Chemist's Shop," but that they were informed that it was a duty laid upon the Commissioners by the Act to provide, in some form, medicine for insured persons.

SPLINTS.—Replying to the Marquis of Tullibardine on Monday regarding arm and other splints, Mr. Masterman said that the second schedule to the Medical Benefits Regulations issued by the Insurance Commissioners has provided that any kind of splints and of cotton and wood wools properly required as part of medical benefit can be claimed. The regulations have laid down no such limitation as is suggested.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated, and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. M. E. MURRAY, has opened a new pharmacy at the top of Upper Accommodation Row, Leeds.

MR. L. D. PRATT, chemist and druggist, has recently opened a business at 13 St. John Street, Cambridge.

THE MIDDLEBROUGH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY have opened drug department at 247 Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough.

MR. F. L. EVANS, pharmacist, has acquired the business of Mr. A. L. Thomson, chemist and druggist, Long street, Tetbury, Glos.

MR. WM. FRANCIS HACKNEY, surgeons' manufacturing chemist, has removed from Laystall Street, Clerkenwell, to 63 Leather Lane, Holborn, London, E.C.

MR. E. C. HARDEN, chemist and druggist, has recently purchased the branch business of Messrs. W. T. Hicks Co., chemists, at 219 City Road, Cardiff.

MESSRS. SYKES & SKINNER, LTD., chemists and opticians, have acquired the business of Mr. J. R. Shallcross, chemist and druggist, 146 Tonge Moor Road, Bolton.

MR. C. W. HIGGINS, chemist and druggist, of 2 Cambridge Gardens, Hastings, has recently taken over the business of Messrs. Read & Orchard, Market Place, Salisbury.

THE PRODUCTION OF QUICKSILVER in the United States during 1912 amounted to 25,147 flasks, against 21,256 flasks in 1911 and 20,601 flasks in 1910.

POISONING FATALITIES.

NINE deaths from poisoning have been recorded since our last issue.

Butyl-chloral Hydrate.—The death by misadventure of Florence Jane McCullagh, wife of the assistant medical officer to the Barrow Education Authority, was due to an overdose of this drug.

Carbolic Acid was used as a suicidal agent by Tom Halliwell (61), at Oldham, and by Susannah Hope (34) at West Hartlepool.

Colchicum.—At the inquest, at Bedworth, on Florence Rowe (17), an epileptic, who had drunk from a bottle labelled "Poison," Dr. Lionel Orton said the preparation was a fluid extract of colchicum known as colchicine. It was an American preparation, used in the United States for gout. The Coroner (Dr. Iliffe) strongly condemned the importation of such remedies. In reply to a jurymen, he said British chemists were allowed to sell the drug. The jury, in returning a verdict of "Death from poisoning," expressed the view that the importation of colchicine was detrimental to the public interest, and that it should be used only on the prescription of medical men.

Narcotic Poisoning.—Dr. Herbert Wheatley Hunt (54), of Ealing, died in consequence of taking an accidental overdose of an opiate on the day following his wife's death.

Oxalic Acid, taken intentionally, killed Arthur James Gilbert, who was found dying on the Albert Embankment, London, S.W.

Prussic Acid.—At the inquest on February 11 on Mr. George William Roberts (60), who was found dead in a bedroom at the Honiton Coffee Tavern on February 9, a son deposed that his father was a chemist and a registered dentist, who had a good business some twenty-five years ago, but he gave that up, and since then had had situations as a chemist's assistant. His last situation was at the Stores, Pennycomequick, Plymouth, but his time there expired on Saturday week. Dr. Ash attributed death to prussic-acid poisoning. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind."

Spirit of Salt was responsible for the deaths of Charles Taylor, fitter, at Gloucester, and Thomas Stringer, brass-dresser, Aston.

The Shops Act, 1912.

Burnley.—The Home Office has confirmed the closing order for chemists (*C. & D.*, 1912, II, 925).—At a meeting of the Burnley Grocers' Association last week the President (Mr. J. Randall) said it behoved every grocer to be careful in regard to the sale of patent medicines after the hours for closing chemists' shops. Mr. Kneeshaw (Secretary) said it was rather a moot point whether grocers could sell medicines on a Tuesday afternoon, which was the local chemists' half-holiday. Messrs. Parkinson & Sons, wholesale druggists, advised grocers to safeguard themselves by asking if the article was needed for a case of illness.

Colwyn Bay.—The County Council have forwarded to the local Urban District Council a petition from the chemists requesting the suspension of the obligation to close half a day in each week during the summer months. The whole matter has been deferred.

Gillingham (Kent).—The Town Council is drafting an order for chemists to close on Wednesdays at 1 P.M. Eight out of ten pharmacists have voted in favour of compulsory closing on this week-day.

Manchester.—A deputation from the Manchester Retail Traders' Association waited on Sir John Randles, M.P., in regard to a proposed amendment of the Shops Act. Sir John undertook to urge upon the Home Secretary to make inquiry into the working of the Act. The Association suggests that half-day closing should be optional, and not compulsory.

Portsmouth.—The Home Office has confirmed the closing order for chemists for Wednesdays at 1 P.M.

A READY-RECKONER for Insurance prescription pricing is the *C. & D.* card, price 6d., by post 7d., from 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

"JUST the thing needed by the busy pharmacist, who is not a mental arithmetician, with dozens of other things crowding in his mind."—So writes Mr. A. Stooke in regard to the *C. & D.* Insurance prescription pricing card.

FORMULAS for B.P.C. preparations on the Insurance drug tariff are printed in an eight-page leaflet, which is supplied at 6d. per doz. (7d. by post) by the *C. & D.* Book Department, 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

FESTIVITIES.

Wellcome Philharmonic Society.

At the gymnasium of the Wellcome Club and Institute, Dartford, on February 7, the annual concert of this Society was held. The programme included selections from the works of Elgar, Mozart, Sibelius, and Schumann, as well as ballads by Coleridge-Taylor and Löhr, and a Butterfly Dance from Jadassohn. Dr. H. A. D. Jowett is the honorary conductor of the Society, and the orchestra comprises sixteen violins, as well as violas, violoncellos, double basses, pianoforte (harp), flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, horns, trumpets, trombones, euphonium, tympani, side drum, etc.

Whist-drive.

On February 12 the annual whist-drive of the Thames Valley Pharmacists' Association was held at the Pagoda Rooms, Richmond. About 114 members and friends attended. Play started at 7.30, and continued till 10.45, except for a short interval when light refreshments were served. Mrs. F. Harvey, the wife of the President, presented the prizes to the successful players as follows: *Ladies*—(1) Mrs. Bletsöe, (2) Mrs. Popplewell, (3) Mrs. A. Thomas, (highest score) Mrs. Alfred Higgs; *Gentlemen*—(1) Mr. Walker, (2) Mr. Kent, (3) Mr. Poole, (highest score) Miss May (playing as gentleman).

Social Evening.

A WELL-ATTENDED social evening of the Chemists' Assistants' Association was held at 73 Newman Street, W., on January 30. The chair was occupied by Mr. Frank A. Rogers, and among those present was Mr. Austin Thomas (President of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Cape Province). A good programme was contributed to by Messrs. A. Haigh, C. W. Gosling, A. R. Sherry, D. C. Phillips (pianoforte solos), G. Cooper (violin), E. H. Brittain (recitation), F. H. Gillett, J. G. Jones, H. B. Everson, Davy (songs). Mr. P. B. Phillips (President) gave a pianoforte sketch, "A Minor Experience," the words of which described an imaginary passage through Galen Place, set to the music of a popular song. A collection in aid of the Benevolent Fund realised 25s. During an interval Mr. Rogers briefly addressed the audience, referring to his connection with the C.A.A. in its early days.

Dinners.

MR. A. G. FENTIMAN'S staff of dental mechanicians, numbering upwards of fifty, held their annual dinner at the Temple Hotel, Tudor Street, London, E.C., on February 7. After dinner and loyal toasts, a very enjoyable concert was held, the vocal and musical talent shown by several members of the staff being much enjoyed. In the course of the evening the Chairman (Mr. Webb) expressed the thanks of the staff to the firm for the life insurance, bonuses, and extra holidays they enjoyed.

THE twelfth annual dinner of the managers of Boots Ltd. in the Nottingham area was held at the Mikado Café, Nottingham, on February 6, Mr. John Boot presiding. Mr. C. E. Reynolds, in toasting "The Firm," declared that chemists throughout the country owed a deep debt of gratitude to Sir Jesse Boot. If it had not been for him they would never have had the Pharmacy Act of 1908, and they would not have had Insurance dispensing to-day. It was pretty certain, whether doctors liked it or not, that sooner or later they would cease to do dispensing. Mr. John Boot replied.

THE annual dinner of the Halifax Chemists' Association was held on February 6 at the Plummett Line Hotel. The President (Mr. J. W. Tiffany) was in the chair, and was well supported by the members of the Association. Mr. L. Chambers proposed the toast of "The Pharmaceutical Society," and Mr. Gibson Dixon, first responding, appealed to those present to make the Pharmaceutical Society as strong a trade union as that of the doctors or the colliers. Mr. F. P. Sargeant also responded, dealing in the course of his speech with the history of the Society, the work of the Council, and Insurance dispensing. Mr. H. Hebden proposed "Kindred Associations," and Mr. A. Hanson responded. Mr. S. R. Mundell (Leeds) proposed "The Halifax Chemists' Association," and Mr. Tiffany acknowledged the toast. During the evening songs were given by Messrs. T. R. Swinburne, L. Chambers, and Gibson Dixon, with Mr. A. Haigh accompanist. Mr. Tiffany gave recitals.

THE imports of drugs and medicines into Rangoon during 1911-12 were valued at 35,420*l.*, against 28,000*l.* in 1910-11; chemical imports were valued at 45,500*l.* in 1911-12, against 59,000*l.* in 1910-11.

WINTER SESSION.

Reporters, and Secretaries of Associations whose meetings are not open to reporters, are requested to send their reports to the Editor not later than the Wednesday following the meeting.

Apothecaries' Assistants.—The annual meeting of the Association of Certificated Dispensers was held in the Court Room of the Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars, E.C., on Thursday, February 6, and was better attended than any previous meeting. Mr. Montagu Smith (Lewisham Infirmary) presided. Mr. A. L. Anderson (Whitechapel Infirmary) presented the balance-sheet, which showed a balance of 93*l.* 18*s.* 8*d.* to the credit of the Association. Mr. A. Howell, M.P.S., read the annual report, which stated that the Association continues to prosper, and also its work on behalf of the members in general. The question of the long-looked-for by-law is still unsettled, and the proposed Bill on behalf of dispensers still waits a suitable opportunity to be put before Parliament. Mr. Howell, who has recently qualified as a pharmacist, then gave in his resignation of the post of Hon. Secretary, which was accepted with regret, and he was presented by the Chairman, on behalf of the members, with a gold watch. Mr. Smith alluded to the success of the Association as the result of Mr. Howell's untiring efforts, and of the sixteen years' connection with himself in advancing the well-being of dispensers. Mr. Howell was elected an honorary member for life. Mr. A. Mowbray Upton, Clerk to the Society of Apothecaries, then addressed the members, and in eulogistic terms referred to the services of Mr. Howell to the Association, and to the correct attitude which had been maintained between the Association and the Society, and expressed the hope that the new Hon. Secretary would carry on a similar policy. The meeting then elected the committee for 1913. Mr. Montagu G. Smith and Mr. A. L. Anderson were unanimously re-elected *Chairman* and *Treasurer* respectively. Mr. F. E. Trayner (Hackney Infirmary), Homerton, N.E., and 13 Carlton Road, Manor Park, E., was appointed *Hon. Secretary*. The usual votes of thanks concluded the meeting.

Assistants' Union.—A meeting of the National Union of Assistant Pharmacists was held on February 2 at the London College, Clapham Road, London, S.E. The chair was taken by Mr. E. Hill. Mr. H. G. Kirby read a paper on *Co-operative Pharmacy*. His object, he said, was not to put a definite scheme before the members, but to interest them in the ideals of co-operation. One of the results of co-operative trading would be to remove much of the strain and responsibility from the individual pharmacist without undermining the personal element. Mr. Hill is in favour of State pharmacies, to which he thought things were tending.

Dundee.—At a meeting of the Dundee Chemists' Assistants' and Apprentices' Association in the Materia Medica Department of the Medical School on Friday, February 7, Professor C. R. Marshall gave a lecture on *The Relation between Chemical Constitution and Pharmacological Action*. This subject has engaged the Professor's attention for the past twenty years. A glance at the diagrams and other arrangements for the lecture showed that it promised to be rather a technical subject for a junior audience, but there was no lack of fluency or lucidity on the part of the demonstrator. Proceeding from the simplest chemical salts, like sodium chloride, the silver and mercury salts, and the compounds of ethyl, he advanced to the more highly complex organic forms represented by pilocarpine and the nitric esters. He showed that the pharmacological action of these is due to the ions into which they are decomposed, and that a comparatively slight change in the chemical constitution may produce a considerable difference in the physiological effect. That this is so can be demonstrated by chemical experiment, or more directly by their action on bacteria, organic tissues, or on the living animal. Although the subject is a very large one, its investigation can scarcely fail to be illuminating on some problems of chemical constitution, on the evaluation of pharmacological results, and possibly on the nature of life itself. Mr. Jno. Anderson (Hon. President), who occupied the chair, conveyed the thanks of the Association to Professor Marshall for his lecture.

Edinburgh Assistants.—A meeting of the Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on January 29. Mr. Henry Stout, Ph.C. (President), in the chair. A debate took place on *Is the National Insurance Act Detrimental to the Professional Interests of Pharmacists?* Mr. E. O. Rowland argued in the affirmative, and Mr. Murray in the negative. A general discussion followed, and on a division it was found that the meeting was about equally divided in opinion.

Great Yarmouth.—The monthly meeting of the Great Yarmouth Pharmacists' Association was held on February 6 at 156 King Street, Mr. W. G. Poll (President) was in the chair, and nine members were also present. The report of the deputation to the Local Insurance Sub-Committee was received. It was resolved that it should be optional for members to open from 6.30 to 7.30 on Thursday evening. The annual dinner was fixed for March 13.

London Assistants.—At the meeting of the Chemists' Assistants' Association, held at 73 Newman Street, London, W., on February 6, Dr. C. Atkin Swan gave a lantern-lecture on *The Channel Islands*. The slides, which mainly depicted scenes and life on the Isles of Sark and Guernsey, included some beautiful moonlight effects.

Nottingham.—A social meeting of the Nottingham Pharmaceutical Association was held on February 5 at the Victoria Station Hotel. There was only a small attendance, owing probably to the busy time with Insurance dispensing. Mr. A. E. Bielby introduced a discussion on the *Effects of the Insurance Act as regards Pharmacists*. Mr. Bielby was of opinion that the tendency will be for the pharmacist to come into his heritage and to drop heavy goods and sidelines.

Organisation Meeting.—At the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on February 12, Mr. J. A. Radford presided at a meeting convened by the local Organisation Committee. Mr. E. T. Neathercoat (Chairman of the Committee) addressed the meeting, and a vote of confidence in the Pharmaceutical Council was passed, on the motion of Mr. Chas. Thompson. In the evening a private conference was held, at which Mr. Woolcock and Mr. Neathercoat gave addresses.

Paisley.—The monthly meeting of the Paisley and District Pharmaceutical Association was held on February 11, Mr. Fraser (President) in the chair. Mr. Hart (President of the Glasgow Chemists' Association) read a paper on "The Commercial Value of a Scientific Training," and Mr. G. S. Kitchen (Glasgow) gave a sketch of the work done by the Glasgow Association's Committee in making a ready-reckoner for Insurance dispensing prices. An interesting discussion followed, and votes of thanks concluded the proceedings.

Sheffield.—A branch has been formed in Sheffield of the National Federation of Ophthalmic Opticians. Mr. J. C. Kidd (President), Mr. A. Hersberg (Hon. Secretary and Treasurer), and Mr. R. E. Heppell (Hon. Organising Secretary) were present to explain the constitution of the Federation. Mr. C. P. Styring was elected President of the Sheffield branch, and Mr. A. W. Stammer Hon. Secretary.—The "Combustion of Hydrocarbons" was the title of a lecture delivered by Mr. W. J. Janard, B.Sc., before the Sheffield Pharmaceutical and Chemical Society on Wednesday evening, February 12. Mr. J. F. Eardley presiding. Four new members were elected at the meeting.

Worcester.—Alderman Steward presided at the annual meeting of the Worcester City and County Pharmacists' Association on February 5, when thirteen members were present. Mr. Steward was re-elected President, and all the members of the committee were re-elected. Mr. A. E. Coverdale was re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. The accounts were then passed. It was decided to change the name of the Association from "Worcester and District Chemists' Association" to "Worcester City and County Pharmacists' Association." Two sub-committees were formed to meet the County and City Insurance Committees respectively if occasion should arise.

York.—At a meeting of the York Chemists' Association on January 29 a lantern-lecture, entitled *Natural History and Sport on the Gouthland Moors*, was given by Mr. Oxley Graham. The President (Mr. I. R. Parker) was in the chair. Mr. Graham has made a study of all living creatures which inhabit these moors, and as he is an expert in photography the lecture was extremely interesting and entertaining, the slides were perfect, and those of many of the birds showed conclusively the amount of patience exhibited by Mr. Graham in obtaining them.

PERSONALITIES.

Notes for this section sent to the Editor should be authenticated and must not be in the nature of advertisements.

MR. H. F. HODGSON, Ph.C., 60 High Street, Brentwood, has been elected President of the local Tradesmen's Association.

MR. E. HAWORTH EARLE, chemist and druggist, 48 King Edward Street, Hull, was the lecturer at an art talk, the first of a series in the art gallery of the City Hall.

BROTHER ARTHUR CHARLES OLDS, S.W. (chemist and druggist, 12 Argyle Street, Bath) was installed as W.M. of the Royal Cumberland Lodge No. 41, Bath, on Thursday, February 6.

MR. EDWIN HARRISON, F.C.S., has joined the firm of Felice Bonaventura & Co., 98 Great Tower Street, London, E.C., and has taken over the sole management of the chemical, drug, and essential-oil department.

MR. RICHARD M. JONES, chemist and druggist, of the Heathcote Pharmacy, Heathcote, Sussex, presented "The Earl of Waldron," an original play in two acts, to local playgoers on January 26. The play, which has a strong love theme, was played by the newly formed Heathcote Amateur Dramatic Society at the Recreation Hall. It is described by the local Press as a complete success, Mr. Jones, in response to persistent cries of "Author!" meeting with an enthusiastic ovation. Mr. Jones himself played the part of the hero, the Hon. John Clayton Cheverley, and his wife took the part of Ethel Egerton, a "charming and vivacious character."

MR. JOHN WILLIAM DEAKIN, J.P., chemist and druggist, Northwich, was on Monday evening presented by the members of the Gladstone Club there with a portrait of himself, which is to be hung in the club, and a signed portrait of Mr. Lloyd George for his own home. Mr. Deakin is President of the newly-formed Cheshire Pharmaceutical Association. He lives a most strenuous life, for, in addition to directing a large business, he served for many years on the Northwich Local Board and Urban Council, and in 1900 was placed on the Commission of Peace for the County. Mr. J. F. L. Brunner, M.P., attended at the meeting on Monday evening and mentioned that the subscriptions had to be limited. All joined, he said, in wishing long life and prosperity to Mr. and Mrs. Deakin. Mr. T. Wilkinson, Mr. Roscoe Brunner, Mr. F. R. Hobson, and others paid tribute to the services of Mr. Deakin, who replied.

SIR JOSEPH BEECHAM'S art collection in his house at Arkwright Road, Hampstead, is described by Mr. C. Reginald Grundy in the first of a series of articles in "The Connoisseur" for February. It is illustrated with reproductions of George Morland's "Morning" and two other pictures by Morland, Constable's "Salisbury Cathedral" and "Hampstead Heath," Turner's "Walton Bridges," three of Nasmyth's landscapes, one of James Stark's, one of John Crome's, and George Vincent's "Greenwich Hospital." Sir Joseph Beecham's collection is exceptionally rich in Morlands and Constables, and there are in it engravings of some of the more notable Morlands. He has several of Hampstead Heath by Constable, and included in the collection is the famous Constable which was the origin of the Barbizon school. This was one of a hundred notable English pictures exhibited in Paris many years ago; it was peculiar in having the foliage painted with green pigment, which Constable alone used. The founder of the Barbizon school on seeing it found in it the tone that he had been in search of. Up to that time French painters had been using a mixture of blue and yellow pigments which did not reproduce the greens of nature as seen in the open air. Constable painted his landscapes in the open, and so did the Barbizon school, in which were Corot, Millet, and other now famous French painters. Sir Joseph Beecham acquired this historic Constable. He has a very fine collection of twelve Turner water-colours which are as fresh as they were on the day that they left the artist's easel. He has also some notable Coxes, Mullers, and Landseers, and there are water-colour sketches of three capitals (Edinburgh, London, and Paris) by a modern painter, besides other fine pictures, which make the collection one of the most notable in London. Sir Joseph Beecham has also another collection in his residence near St. Helens.



MR. J. W. DEAKIN.

TRADE REPORT.

The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers receive the goods into stock, after which much expense may be incurred in garbling and the like. Qualities of chemicals, drugs, oils, and many other commodities vary greatly, and higher prices than those here quoted are charged for selected qualities of natural products even in bulk quantities. Retail buyers cannot, therefore, for these and other reasons, expect to purchase at the prices quoted here.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C., February 13.

NO improvement in the demand for drugs and chemicals is reported, the markets being, for the most part, uninteresting. Trading with the United States is more or less hand to mouth, and is hampered by proposed tariff alterations. The chief changes include an advance of 10s. per ton in borax and boric acid. Citric acid is also dearer and scarce on the spot, cream of tartar being very firm. Ammonia sulphate continues weak, with prices lower, and the same applies to copper sulphate. Benzols are steadier, and zinc salts are firm. Quicksilver (seconds) is lower, and the market is weak. Drugs present few changes. Opium is on the easier side; cod-liver oil is firm, and at the moment prices seem more likely to advance than recede, but buyers prefer to look on. Sudan acacia gums are steady. Hellebore is likely to advance, and ipecacuanha has a weak undertone. Canary-seed is again dearer, as is fenugreek, while coriander and cumin are firmer. Shellac has sharply advanced. Among essential oils lemon is 6d. to 1s. cheaper, and orange oil is easier. Star anise is also a shade cheaper on spot, and higher prices are asked for cassia oil to arrive. The principal changes are as under :

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Borax	Benzols	Copper sulphate	Ammonia sulphate
Boric acid	Ceresin wax	Mastich	Lemon oil
Canary-seed	Coriander-seed	Opium	Quicksilver (see. hands.)
Celery-seed	Cumin-seed	Orange oil	
Citric acid	Petrolatum		
Fenugreek-seed			
Hellebore			
Shellac			

Cablegram.

NEW YORK, February 12.—Business in drugs is moderate. Opium has declined by 20c. to \$6 per lb. for druggists' quality in cases. Peppermint oil in tins is steady at \$2.80 per lb., and the price in bottles has declined by 5c. Round buchu is steady at \$1.40, and Cartagena ipecacuanha has declined to \$1.75. Jalap is also lower at 20c. per lb., and for Mexican sarsaparilla the firmer price of 15c. is asked. Cascara sagrada is quiet at 7½c. per lb.

London Markets.

AGAR-AGAR.—Sales of 40 bales Japanese No. 1 strip are reported at 1s. 6½d. for March-April and April-May shipment.

ALOES.—The arrivals include 45 kegs Socotrine, which description is in more demand, the value of good hard being 62s. 6d.

The exports from the Union of South Africa during November amounted to 72,669 lb., valued at 806l., against 71,072 lb., valued at 679l., in November 1911; during the eleven months the exports were 759,058 lb., valued at 7,994l., against 737,271 lb., valued at 7,290l., in 1911.

ANISE OIL (STAR) is a shade easier on spot. Red Ship brand offering at 6s. 10d., and to arrive 6s. 2d. c.i.f. is quoted.

BALSAM TOLU is quoted 3s. c.i.f. to arrive, the spot value being 3s. 6d.

BENZOIN.—Sumatra has been in fair demand since the auctions at principally between 6l. 10s. and 7l. About 60 cases have arrived.

BORAX.—The Borax Convention announce an advance of 10s. per ton both in borax and boric acid, making the quotation for borax crystals 17l. 10s. per ton, powder 18l. 10s., boric-acid crystals 26l. 10s., and powder 28l. 10s. per ton. Howard's prices have also been advanced 6d. per cwt. as follows : Refined borax crystals, 5-cwt. lots, 18s. 6d.; 1-cwt., 19s. 6d.; powdered, 2s. more. Boric-acid crystals, 5-cwt. lots, 27s. 6d.; 1-cwt. lots, 28s. 6d.; powdered 2s. more; all net cash without engagement.

BUCHU.—Values remain firm, with a retail spot demand at from 5s. 9d. to 6s. per lb. for round, as to quality. Longs remain scarce and wanted. Five bales have arrived *in tr.* to Hamburg.

CALABAR BEANS.—On account of larger offers on the Hamburg market, prices on that side have declined to 210m., and for delivery to 200m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE).—China crude on the spot is held at 172s. 6d. per cwt.

CAMPHOR (REFINED).—Business has been done in Japanese refined 2½-lb. slabs at 1s. 5d. to 1s. 5½d. c.i.f., the latter for April-May shipment.

CANARY-SEED is again dearer, ordinary Morocco and Turkish have been sold at 88s. to 90s. per quarter, and 95s. is asked for good Morocco. The quotations for Spanish have been raised to 95s. for ordinary and 100s. to 110s. for good to fine.

CANNABIS INDICA.—The last case of genuine Bombay tops in first-hands has been sold at 5s. 11d.

CASSIA OIL.—Quotations to arrive are higher at 3s. 3d. for 70 to 75 per cent.; 3s. 5d. for 75 to 80 per cent.; and 3s. 7d. c.i.f. for 80 to 85 per cent. The spot price for 80 to 85 per cent. is 3s. 9d., and 70 to 75 per cent. 3s. 6d. per lb.

CELERY-SEED, since we quoted a month ago, has further advanced, French being 155s. c.i.f., but some ask more.

CHALK (PRECIPITATED) of finest quality is quoted 12l. 10s. in 5-cwt. casks, 13l. in 2-cwt. casks, and 13l. 10s. in 1-cwt. casks per ton net, free ex wharf London or c.i.f. United Kingdom ports, for minimum quantities of half-ton lots.

CINCHONA.—The auction to be held at Amsterdam on February 27 will consist of 15,278 packages Ledgeriana and hybrid, 337 cases and 868 bales Succirubra, making a total of 16,483 packages, weighing about 1,410,785 kilos.

CITRIC ACID is dearer at 1s. 6d. on the spot, with no sellers for forward delivery.

COCA-LEAVES.—At the auction to be held at Amsterdam on February 27, 2,262 packages Java will be offered, weighing about 116,735 kilos.

COD-LIVER OIL.—Judging by the figures relating to the cod fishing, the progress so far is only slow, and probably for this reason the prices asked remain firm, but actual business in new oil is wanting, buyers preferring to wait until the fishing has made further progress. It is quite possible that, as Easter falls early this year, the fishing in the Lofoten districts will be prolonged several weeks beyond that festival. Agents quote finest medicinal 1913 oil at from 76s. 6d. to 80s. c.i.f., and oil from the winter fishing at correspondingly less; finest 1912 oil is quoted 70s. to 73s. c.i.f.

According to cabled statistics of the Norwegian fishing up to February 8, there is a marked decline in the results so far obtained as compared with the figures of about the same period of a year ago. The figures are :

	Catch of Cod.	Livers for Raw Oils (hect.)	Yield of Oils (hect.)
Lofoten, 1913...	194,000	140	78
Do. 1912	584,000	101	408
Whole country, 1913	6,400,000	2,063	5,604
Do. 1912	7,900,000	2,054	8,000

at the corresponding date of last year.

A London circular states that so far the reports about the new fishing in Norway are somewhat vague. Some quanti-

ties of winter oil are available, while the catch at Lofoten is as yet exceedingly small. During the past week there was bad weather in the fishing districts, supplies were small, and producers seem unwilling to offer.

Our Bergen correspondent writes on February 10 that the yield from the cod-fishing during the past week was only small. The official report gives the following figures:

	1911	1912	1913
Catch of cod (millions) ...	2.1	7.9	6.4
Yield of cod-liver oil (hect.) ...	1,400	8,000	5,550
Livers for "raw" oils (hect.) ...	1,400	2,050	2,000

Especially in Lofoten has the catch been quite insignificant, the last report from that centre giving the following details: weight of 100 cod was 100 kilos., the number of livers to fill one hectolitre was from 430 to 530, and the percentage of oil in the liver was from 38 to 43 per cent.

There is only a small business passing; the few lots of new season's unrefined oil that arrive are quickly taken up by the refiners at slightly advancing prices; quotation of refined oil can only be given for 1912, and this is unaltered at 74s. per barrel c.i.f.

COPPER SULPHATE is from 5s. to 10s. per ton easier, the usual Liverpool brands offering at from 23*s.* to 23*t.* 5s. for February-April.

CORIANDER-SEED is slightly dearer; 14*s.* 3*d.* per cwt. has been paid for sound old crop Morocco and 15*s.* for last year's crop.

CREAM OF TARTAR.—Very firm and difficult to obtain for prompt delivery; values are from 87*s.* to 89*s.* for 95-per-cent. and 98-per-cent. powder respectively.

CUMIN-SEED is firmer, and shows a tendency to advance in sympathy with other Morocco seeds, but higher prices have not yet been paid. Holders ask 22*s.* 6*d.* to 25*s.* per cwt. for common to good. Malta is steady at 27*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* per cwt.

DRAGON'S-BLOOD.—A parcel of ten cases of imperfectly picked lump which has been offered at the auctions is to be re-shipped to Singapore. No arrivals have taken place.

FENUGREEK-SEED is dearer; some Morocco has been sold at 9*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., but 10*s.* is now required.

GAMBOGE.—Eleven cases are close at hand. Fair Siam pipe part blocky and a little drossy has been sold from first-hands at from 13*t.* to 13*s.* 10*s.* per cwt.

GLYCERIN.—A London merchant's circular states that prices for chemically pure glycerin were raised towards the end of November by 3*t.* per ton, and have since remained on this level. Transactions have been on a small scale, and this refers more particularly to crude and dynamite qualities, in which business has for some months been practically at a standstill, both buyers and sellers having assumed a waiting attitude. Although small lots change hands at officially quoted prices, occasionally even at less, the tendency on the whole has been in an upward direction; but as long as no important sales take place the position of the market cannot be gauged. However, home-trade prices for distilled are not likely to be reduced.

GUM ACACIA.—Sudan sorts are steady on spot at from 34*s.* to 35*s.* for fair, and to arrive quotations are firmer at from 33*s.* to 33*s.* 9*d.* c.i.f. In East Indian gums, scented Aden has changed hands at 37*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. There are no supplies of Senegal on spot, and to arrive 33*s.* per cwt. f.o.b. Bordeaux is quoted for the usual quality of Bas de Fleuve.

HELLEBORE.—Although stocks on primary markets have been much reduced, spot holders are able to quote at the favourable figures of from 27*s.* 6*d.* to 30*s.* for powdered white, according to quantity. The principal demand, which is during April and May, will, it is expected, be greater this year on account of the lack of seasonable weather.

IPECACUANHA.—Subsequent to the auctions a few bales of Johore changed hands at 7*s.* to 7*s.* 1*d.* for "weathered" quality, but for good Johore 8*s.* is said to have been paid. Matto Grosso is held for 8*s.* 2*d.* to 8*s.* 3*d.*, Minas 8*s.* 2*d.*, Cartagena at 8*s.* 2*d.*, and 7*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. to arrive. Five packages Cartagena are close at hand.

JALAP.—The *Ophelia* has brought 127 bags *via* Hamburg.

LEMON-JUICE continues very dear and firm, the quotation for English-pressed being 2*s.* per gal.

LEMON OIL.—Substantial signs of a weakening market have been more apparent this week, owing to liquidations of January contracts on the primary markets. Prices have declined about 6*d.* to 1*s.* per lb., but they continue very irregular, and show a wide range. Spot prices for good brands are from 12*s.* 6*d.* to 12*s.* 9*d.*, and to arrive from 11*s.* 4*d.* up to 12*s.* 9*d.* c.i.f. is quoted, but several shippers invite bids. Arrivals amounting to about 125 packages "essences" have taken place from Sicily this week.

A Palermo advice dated February 8 states that "We have abstained from informing our friends of the position of lemon oil because the market was so upset by speculation that its course was absolutely convulsive. The advance has been more than impetuous, and prices, especially on the part of speculators, reached a level which surpassed those existing within living memory. The difficulties (to which we referred in our previous reports) over the fulfilment of December deliveries of contracts recurred, and were even accentuated during January, causing our market to reach 'an absolute paroxysm of exaggeration,' which was helped by local speculators on the bull tack. However, in spite of this abnormal position, the January liquidations of contracts were easier, and gave the first signs of the reaction which from day to day has already made rapid progress. It seems, in fact, that the decline may possibly be as rapid as the advance, and, even if it is not probable that prices may return to the level which was quoted at the beginning of the season, yet it is impossible to foresee now when and where this decline will terminate. During the last few days our market has receded about 20 per cent. from the highest point, and while some speculators and producers show themselves willing to sell, offering insistently, buyers remain very reserved, and consumers abroad also show by their persistent withholding of orders that they are not in urgent need. We think a certain settlement of the market is not far off, and then the execution of orders may be easier and more normal. We think, also, that if foreign buyers continue to maintain an almost passive attitude, it may be possible for them to cover, at still lower prices than those now ruling. The production of lemon oil is continuing, although in smaller proportion than usual."

LIME-JUICE is very firm at 1*s.* 7*d.* for good green raw W.I. It is stated that the crop is partially a failure owing to hurricanes, and that Jamaica and Dominica shippers are chary of offering.

MASTICH.—Prices from Trieste come rather lower, prime white offering at about 27*s.* per cwt. c.i.f. London.

MENTHOL is in retail demand, spot holders asking 30*s.* 6*d.* to 31*s.* for Kobayashi in cases and 31*s.* 6*d.* for tins. Arrival business is also quiet, sellers of Kobayashi quoting 31*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f., combined with oil for April-May shipment.

MUSK.—Tonquin pod is steady at 77*s.* 6*d.* per oz., at which business has been done for good blue skin Pile 1; old style is worth from 62*s.* 6*d.* to 65*s.* as to quality. Good Russian Cabardine is held for 18*s.* 6*d.*

NUX VOMICA.—As a result of higher freights, shippers of Calcutta or Madras are quoting 10*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.* per cwt., being an advance.

OLIVE OIL.—Genuine French Provence oil, 1913 season, is quoted at from 6*s.* 3*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.* for "finest sublime," 6*s.* 1*d.* to 6*s.* 4*d.* for "extra surfine," 5*s.* 11*d.* to 6*s.* 2*d.* for "surfine," and at from 5*s.* 3*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* for druggists' quality B.P. in casks per gal. c.i.f. chief U.K. ports.

OPIUM.—Business continues at a standstill, and prices are more or less nominal, buyers being content to wait further crop developments; retail sales of Turkey drugists' have been made at 20*s.* 6*d.* on spot.

A Smyrna correspondent writes on January 31 that the sales this week amount to four cases current qualities at 17*s.* 6*d.* and eight Karahissar at 18*s.* 9*d.* Very cold weather has set in, and hard frost in the Interior is damaging the poppy plantations, in consequence of which the position of opium is firmer. The arrivals are 2,264 cases, against 1,085 at same date last year.

A Constantinople correspondent writes on February 7 that the sales for the week amount to 19 cases druggists' at from 140 to 260 ptrs. per oke, 93 cases "soft" shipping at from 240 to 280, and six cases Malatias at 240 ptrs. per oke. Market closes quiet because half of the above purchases were the result of pressure exercised on holders by bankers. The

arrivals in Constantinople amount to 2,423 casks, against 1,259 cases; these consist of 1,245 druggists', against 827; "soft" 840, against 372; and Malatia 338, against 60 cases. The stock is now 909 cases, against 293 cases, and consists of 514 druggists', against 234; 271 "soft," against 38; and 124 Maiatias, against 21, at the corresponding period of 1911.

PEPPERMINT OIL.—American is firmer at from 12s. to 12s. 6d. for leading brands of tin oil; it is stated 12s. has been refused in one quarter. H.G.H. is 15s. spot, with arrival offering at 14s. 6d. Japanese is firm at 7s. for Kobayashi on spot.

PETROLATUM.—Business has been done at prices showing an advance of about 5 per cent., but in view of the unsettled market one American exporter is no longer a seller.

QUICKSILVER.—The leading importers' price remains unchanged at 7l. 15s., but second-hands has declined to 7l. 6s. 6d. per bottle. In the present weak state of the market, which appears to be due to the plentiful stock, a decline on the part of the chief controllers cannot be far off.

QUILLIA.—The arrivals in Liverpool include 443 bales from Valparaiso, which come to a bare market. February-March shipment of f.a.q. is quoted 25/- per ton c.i.f.

QUININE.—Quiet, with buyers of the usual German brands of sulphate at 10*d.* per oz.; makers quote 10*1/2* d.

RHUBARB.—Subsequent to the auctions small sales of medium round Shensi, mostly fair pinky fracture, were made at 2s. 9*d.*; bold round greyish, part pinky, at 2s. 3*d.*; and medium round Canton, very ordinary fracture and coat, at 2s. The value of good flat High-dried is 1s. 2*d.*, and rough round ditto, which is rather scarce, 11*d.* per lb.

SARSAPARILLA has been in fair demand, the sales including good red native Jamaica at from 1s. 1*d.* to 1s. 2*d.* from second-hands. The arrivals comprise 17 bales Lima Jamaica, 4 bales grey Jamaica, and 6 bales red native.

SENNA.—The sales from first-hands include about 25 bales common Tinnevelly leaf at the auction limits.

SHELLAC is again dearer, a large speculative business having been done both here and in Calcutta. Prices are from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per cwt. higher, the spot sales including the good quantity of usual standard TN up to 81*s.* to 82*s.*; also fine orange and fine second orange at 85*s.* to 95*s.* as in quality. For arrival Calcutta prices are much above those ruling here, 87*s.* c.i.f. being wanted, whereas re-sellers on this side quote 81*s.* c.i.f. Futures have been active and much dearer, the sales including March at 76*s.* to 82*s.* 6*d.*, May 77*s.* 6*d.* to 84*s.*, August 80*s.* to 86*s.* 6*d.*

Soy remains firm at 1s. 8*d.* per gal., which has been paid for Seuloong, and for Wochan for March-April shipment 1s. 2*d.* c.i.f. is quoted.

SPICES.—Zanzibar Cloves are cheaper, spot offering at 10*d.*, and to arrive sellers of new crop September-December shipment quote 6*1/2* *d.* c.i.f., being also cheaper; for delivery March-May has been sold at 9*1/2* *d.* Ginger quiet at auction, 231 bags washed rough Cochin being bought in at 35*s.*, and fine bold brown Calicut rough (new crop) at 42*s.* Nutmegs and Mace steady at auction. At auction 73 bags Ceylon Pepper sold, including fair at 5*1/2* *d.* and small 4*1/2* *d.* to 4*2/3* *d.*; 39 bags fair Singapore were bought in at 5*1/2* *d.*, which is the price asked privately; of White pepper 30 bags fair Penang were bought in at auction at 8*1/2* *d.*, and 55 bags fair Singapore at 8*1/2* *d.*, which is the price asked privately.

STAVESACRE is quoted from the Trieste market at 36*s.* per cwt. c.i.f. terms.

TONKA-BEANS.—A good business has recently been done in Angostura, chiefly on the Continent, at down to about 4*s.* 3*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* per lb. c.i.f. for June-August delivery, but these prices have since been withdrawn. It is anticipated that the new Angostura crop will exceed 600,000 lb. Spot supplies, however, remain extremely small, the value of good black Para being about 9*s.*

TURPENTINE has shown little variation in prices, closing steady at 31*s.* 9*d.* for American on spot and 32*s.* for March-April.

WAX (CARNAUBA).—Spot supplies remain scarce; the values to arrive are about 160*s.* for waxy and 155*s.* for chalky.

WAX (JAPANESE).—The sales include 200 cases for February-March shipment at 42*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. Continent.

Telephones on 'Change.

The formal opening of the telephone installation at the Royal Exchange took place on Monday afternoon, when a vote of thanks to the Gresham Committee was moved by Mr. Fehr, of Messrs. Thornett & Fehr. This was seconded by Mr. Hopwood, and supported by Mr. E. A. Webb, of Messrs. Evans Sons Lescher & Webb, Ltd. The telephones, the use of which is gratis, are solely for the benefit of the chemical, drug, and oil merchants, who assemble daily from 3.30 to 4 P.M.; also the bill-brokers, who meet twice a week. An operator and messenger-boy are in attendance.

Manchester Chemical-market.

February 11.

While on home account demand continues comparatively quiet, that for export is well maintained, as the Board of Trade returns indicate. No doubt renewed hostilities in the Balkan States will have the effect of influencing adversely shipments to the ports affected by the war, but this will be evidenced probably early in March. Alkalies met with fair demand. Caustic soda is inquired for, and bleaching-powder is somewhat scarce for prompt delivery apart from contracts. Bicarbonate of soda steady. Ammonia alkali is in request at 2*s.* 17*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* per ton on rails at works. Soda crystals and saltcake in fair request. Crystals quiet, from 40*s.* to 45*s.* per ton, in 2-cwt. bags on rails at works. Sulphate of potash rather dull at about 10*s.* per ton. Carbonate of potash steady at 19*s.* to 19*s.* 5*d.* per ton for 90 to 92 per cent. Solvent wood naphtha, white colourless, is quoted 2*s.* 7*d.* per gallon, and miscible, 60° o.p., is also on the same basis. Aniline oil, pure, quoted 4*1/2* *d.* and salt 4*d.* per lb. White powdered arsenic lower at 19*s.* 10*s.* to 20*s.* per ton. Sulphate of copper continues to decline in consonance with the prices of the raw metal, and 23*s.* 10*s.* to 23*s.* 15*s.* Manchester may now be regarded as the figures for delivery. American spirits of turpentine are strong, and there is an advancing market. Subject to market fluctuations, spot prices are 32*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., March-April 33*s.*, May-June 34*s.* f.o.r. Manchester. Resin still tends upwards, and American B is quoted 14*s.* 10*1/2* *d.*, D 14*s.* 11*1/2* *d.*, F 15*s.* 1*1/2* *d.*, G 15*s.* 3*d.*, I 15*s.* 9*d.* net f.o.r. Manchester. Castor oil, medicinal water, white in cases, 4*d.* per lb., and barrels 3*1/2* *d.*. Coal-tar products are fairly steady. Sulphate of ammonia is 14*s.* 3*s.* 9*d.* to 14*s.* 5*s.* f.o.r. Manchester.

Heavy Chemicals.

There is little material change in the conditions of the heavy-chemical market from that indicated in recent reports, though possibly there is a slight heavier demand for prompt and a little more inquiry for forward. The tone of the market keeps very steady, and prices are firm.

BENZOLS are rather steadier, with present naked prices: 10*3/4* *d.* to 11*d.* for 90 per cent. and 10*1/2* *d.* for 50 per cent.; north, 10*d.* to 10*1/2* *d.* and 10*d.* respectively.

BICHROMATES OF POTASH AND SODA have been moving somewhat more freely at unaltered figures. Bichromate of potash, English and Scotch deliveries, 3*d.* per lb., less 5 per cent.; and export, 3*1/2* *d.* per lb. net f.o.b. Glasgow. Bichromate of soda, English and Scotch deliveries, 3*d.* per lb., less 5 per cent.; and export, 2*3/4* *d.* per lb. net f.o.b. Glasgow.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.—There has been no improvement, and the weak tone continues, with quotations slightly lower. Present nearest figures: Beckton, 25-cwt-cent. ammonia guaranteed, February-April, 14*s.*: London terms, prompt, 13*s.* 10*s.*; Leith, 14*s.* 6*s.* 3*d.* to 14*s.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; Liverpool, 14*s.* 5*s.*; and Hull, 14*s.* 3*s.* 9*d.*

ZINC SALTS are moving well, and are firm at unchanged rates. Zinc sulphate, crystals, 7*s.* 15*s.* to 8*s.*; and zinc-chloride, 100° Tw. solution, 7*s.* 10*s.* to 7*s.* 15*s.* per ton.

MESSRS. R. MORRISON & CO. 2 Fen Court, London, E.C. have been appointed agents to Messrs. Franz Fritsche & Co. of Hamburg, for the sale of their essential oils and perfumery products.

THE British Vice-Consul at Hakodate states that the Hokkaido province of Japan contributed no less than 238,000 lb. out of the 311,000 lb. of peppermint produced in Japan in 1911. During 1911 Japan exported 227,870 lb. of peppermint oil and 150,240 lb. of menthol crystals, valued at 63,860*l.* and 98,328*l.* respectively. The value of the peppermint cron in the Kitami (Abashiri) district of the Hokkaido in 1911 was 80,838*l.*, as compared with 45,663*l.* in the previous year.—*Board of Trade Journal*.

American Drug-market.

New York, February 3.

Business in drugs in the New York drug-market has been comparatively slow of late, the usual seasonal commodities being affected by the mildness of the weather. Crude drugs, as a rule, continue scarce on spot, and the prices asked are not conducive to heavy purchasing. Opium and aloes are lower; quinine and peppermint oil are higher.

ALOES.—With the approach of the new crop and lessened demand on the part of consumers, case Curacao is offered at 8½ c. to 9c. as to holder. Advices from primary sources indicate a satisfactory crop, conditions being favourable for the development of the plants.

BLOOD-ROOT is in light demand on spot, and with freer offers from country dealers local prices are somewhat easy at 7½c. to 8c.

BUCHU.—Consumers of short leaves are delaying purchases as much as possible in view of the near-by harvesting at primary sources, and since easier terms are now available for primary shipment, prices for spot goods have declined to \$1.40.

CANADA BALSAW continues very scarce, both on spot and primary markets, and holders firmly maintain their prices at \$6.50 per gal. The Oregon variety also is in short supply, and with little available in the gathering districts prices have advanced to 85c. per gal.

CARBON BISULPHIDE.—Keen competition between Italian manufacturers and the single domestic producer has resulted in a decline of 2c. to 6½c. per lb. in 1,000-lb. lots.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Quiet conditions prevail; good supplies of new bark are reported available in Coast markets, and on spot prices range from 7½c. to 8½c. as to age and quantity.

COPAIBA is in moderate demand, and with plentiful supplies on hand the market is barely steady. Prices for C. & S. American are quoted from 45c. for direct importation to 40c. for inferior grades. Stocks of Para are light, and up to 50c. is asked.

GUARANA is in only moderate inquiry, and U.S.P. testing can be obtained for \$2.75 to \$2.90 as to quantity.

HYDRASTIS is in improved inquiry, and for 150 lb. bales of U.S.P. drug a price of \$3.97 is asked.

IPECAQUANHA is reported in good supply at primary centres, and owing to the sluggishness of the spot market prices are lower at \$1.95 for Cartagena and \$1.95 to \$2.00 for Rio.

MANDRAKE is in fair demand, and prices are steady at 5½c. for spot goods.

OPIUM.—Lack of business has brought about keen competition, and buyers of case lots have been able to obtain concessions from \$6.30. It is generally agreed that the statistical position is firm, and that higher prices will follow any active demand.

PEPPERMINT OIL (American) is stronger in primary markets owing to a substantial reduction in the stock of 1912 oil, and the local market has responded with a 10c. advance to \$2.80 for tins.

QUININE.—At the close of the week's trading the price of quinine sulphate was marked up 2c. to 21½c. by both domestic and foreign manufacturers. While some enhancement of values was anticipated in the future owing to the further development of the negotiations which made the previous advance possible, this increase of 2c. was scarcely expected at the moment in view of the slight advance of bark values. It is thought that the prices now ruling will prove of great advantage to American producers, who, during the 14c. level, regarded the manufacture of quinine (as one expressed it) a matter of sentiment only.

American Turpentine Market.

The market for American turpentine has had frequent and sharp ups and downs in the course of January. Although the outlook for the near future is considered very uncertain, prices easily recover on any notable setback, while speculative operations in America appear to be increasing, as is usual over the second half of the season, in anticipation of some falling off in the available supplies. This anticipation is perhaps somewhat premature, in view of the unusually heavy yield of this season's American crop. Writing some months ago as to market prospects, we pointed out the possibility of an additional source of supply, in the shape of wood-spirit or that distilled from pine-stumps (through a new process of extraction) eventually proving an important factor. The development of this source of production was, of course, at that time stimulated by the high prices. There is, indeed, no doubt that the output of wood-spirit had considerably increased last year, and our imports of American wood-spirit have also increased; but the official statistics, unfortunately, do not specify the two different articles—viz., gum- and wood-spirit—although it is understood that the American statistics give details.

It is now suggested by trade experts that, owing to the serious slump in the value of gum-spirit, the extension of enterprise in wood-turpentine may be temporarily checked. The latter is apparently also being produced in a more scientific manner in Northern Europe, as well as in America. While this season's crop results, both across the Atlantic and in France, have exceeded all expectations, it is generally surmised that the coming season's yield may turn out a good deal lighter. The much-reduced price, of course, may somewhat discourage operations, unless a considerable rise takes place within the next few months, which seems rather doubtful, as heavy reserve-stocks have yet to be digested. On the other hand, the world's consumption has been materially stimulated by the cheapness of the article. The London deliveries so far this year are ahead of last year, but the stocks are still very large. The total London visible supply on January 27 was 6,259 tons, against 4,952 tons at the corresponding date of 1912. Interest has lately been particularly centred on spot and near delivery, but distant deliveries are not offered freely. The average price of American spirit in London for last year was 33s. 1d. per cwt., against 47s. 9d. in 1911 and 47s. 8d. in 1910. The highest record for 1912 was 37s. 6d. and the lowest 27s., which compares with 44s. 3d. and 33s. 9d. respectively for the previous year.

Coca and Cocaine.

Mr. Ferdinand Roques, of Paris (whose agents in the United Kingdom are Messrs. W. Charity & Sons, 14 Harp Lane, E.C.), has issued an interesting circular letter regarding the position of cocaine hydrochloride. The growing importance of the Amsterdam coca auctions is shown by the following offerings:

		Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
1909	...	110,267	representing	1,771
1910	...	183,101	"	3,061
1911	...	412,901	"	6,517
1912	...	578,155	"	9,241

Last year, in addition to the above, there were sold outside of the auctions 43,219 kilos. of coca-leaves, representing 743 kilos. of alkaloids, against only 21 kilos. of alkaloids in 1911. This makes the total sales in Amsterdam last year 621,374 kilos., representing 9,984 kilos. of alkaloids. Java last year shipped 22,722 cases, weighing about 1,170,000 kilos. of leaves, or more than 18,700 kilos. of alkaloids. It follows that more than half the quantity despatched from Java was sold direct to cocaine manufacturers. The sales of coca-leaves from other sources and on other markets cannot be estimated, but they are comparatively unimportant. The exports of crude cocaine from Peru to Hamburg for the past four years have been as follows:

	Arrivals.	Sales.	Stock.
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
1909	3,886	3,149	2,116
1910	4,574	6,488	202
1911	3,620	2,277	1,575
1912	2,130	2,024	1,681

Of the 2,024 kilos sold last year, 1,320 kilos. was purchased by cocaine makers in October and November. Whatever may be the world's consumption of cocaine, it is evident that the production of raw material exceeds it to a large extent. This leads Mr. Roques to the conclusion that former high prices for cocaine will not again prevail, and as fluctuations in future are likely to be narrow, there will be little or no room for speculation. On the other hand, it is not anticipated that any sensible decline can be established permanently. This is because keen competition between makers has already anticipated the decline in raw material.

Mercury in Surinam.

In our issue of December 14 (index folio 899) we called attention to the discovery of deposits of mercury ore in the Dutch Colony of Surinam, and to the controversy that had arisen regarding the ownership of the land on which the ore occurs. The area has now been examined by Mr. Duyfjes, a Dutch mining engineer, acting for the Borondore Syndicate, which has an option on Messrs. Sedney & Roble's land. He finds that, although the original "find" was made on land in the da Costa concession, the deposit extends into Messrs. Sedney & Roble's territory, where the ore occurs in considerable quantities. Mr. Headley, the American engineer, mentioned in our previous note on this subject, has been interviewed on the subject by "De West," and has expressed the opinion that the deposit is extensive and consists for the most part of rich ore, which will pay to work. He also thinks it likely that a gold amalgam may be found below the mercury deposits.



Memoranda for Correspondents.

All communications must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers, otherwise they cannot be dealt with. Queries by subscribers on dispensing, legal, and miscellaneous subjects connected with the business are replied to in these columns if they are considered to be of general interest. Letters submitted for publication (if suitable) should be written on one side of the paper only. Their publication in "The Chemist and Druggist" does not imply Editorial agreement with the opinions expressed.

Pricing Insurance Prescriptions.

SIR.—During an interview I had last week with the clerk to the Dorset County Insurance Committee, he informed me that it was his intention to hand over to me at the end of the quarter all the prescriptions from all the chemists in Dorset for my Committee to check the items before passing the accounts for payment. His authority for this is to be found in Regulation 44, Clause 2, in the "Medical Benefit Statutory Rules and Orders," No. 1719. I wrote to Mr. Woolcock, and he endorses the statement that the Pharmaceutical Committee referred to in that clause is, in our case, the Committee of the Dorset County Pharmacists' Association. I shall be very glad to know how other associations propose to deal with this matter, and shall appreciate correspondence from any honorary secretary reading this letter.

I am, yours sincerely,
JNO. W. CUSSONS,

Hon. Sec. Dorset County
Pharmacists' Association.

33 High East Street, Dorchester.

[We question the correctness of the clerk's statement. Checking accounts is the Insurance Committee's business, and the London County Insurance Committee is appointing an accountant at 300/- to do the work. Clause 2 is as follows:

As soon as may be after the receipt of an account the Committee shall pay to the chemist or other person furnishing the account such sum as may be agreed between the Committee and any Committee representative of chemists and other persons undertaking the supply of drugs and appliances (in these Regulations referred to as "the Pharmaceutical Committee") in advance of the amount due to him, and shall pay the balance of the amount so due as soon as may be after the expiration of the year, but before payment of the balance the Committee shall submit all accounts to the Pharmaceutical Committee, which shall have power to reduce or disallow any item of any account submitted to them. It will be noted that Mr. Woolcock does not endorse the clerk's statement. It may be desirable in some cases for Pharmaceutical Committees to help Insurance Committees in such matters, but there is no reason why such work should be accepted as a duty.—EDITOR, C. & D.]

Shops Act and Insurance Dispensing.

SIR.—How are the many branch shops which are single-handed and cannot afford to keep an extra assistant to do the dispensing on early-closing days? I am managing a shop single-handed, and, not being the owner of the shop, am compelled to close entirely one half-day in the week. The doctor's surgery hours at night are 5.30 to 6.30, and under the Insurance Act there will now be from six to twelve prescriptions to be made up. An inspector under the Shops Act has informed me I must take meal-times, as stated, and not serve anyone during that time, which, under the circumstances, is a most absurd thing. Can something not be done to allow a manager to dispense these prescriptions without incurring any legal penalty? I might state that until fined I intend to open for dispensing the prescriptions.

Yours truly,
C. D. (214/10.)

SIR.—There is a point about dispensing on the half-holiday under the Insurance Act that ought to be settled at once—i.e., chemists (who are alone and work their businesses without the aid of assistants, and who wel-

comed the half-day under the Shops Act as a long-looked-for break in their weekly labours) must find that it is very irksome to have to give up their half-holiday in order to carry out the work under the Insurance Act. May I ask if, after going on the panel, one is expected to give up one's half-day, stay in after closing time, do without rest at nights, Sundays, and bank holidays, because one fears the patient might be upset and take his script elsewhere, or the doctor might use this argument as a means to take back the dispensing to himself? I should like to have the views of pharmacists generally on the vexed question.

Yours faithfully,
E. G. (206/57.)

SIR.—I understand that in various parts of London both individual and corporate bodies are beginning to open their pharmacies on early-closing day. The Shops Act has been called grandmotherly legislation and various other things, but I consider that it has been a boon to hundreds of pharmacists. The public will shop at all hours so long as there is a shop open, but now we have partly educated the public into shopping early on one day in the week, and we have convinced them that on this day the hard-worked pharmacist is entitled to a few hours' grace and relaxation from business worries, and to be able to eat a meal or two in peace with his family. This being so, does it not seem folly to open up again? If we all close, there is no injustice to anybody. Surely some steps should be taken to prevent this re-opening, and I suggest that every association connected with pharmacy should take the matter in hand and bring pressure to bear upon those who are opening. There is nothing to prevent anybody taking duty during the whole time the shop is closed, and in many places it is necessary to do so; but let us close the shop, which, in my estimation, is the only way to educate the public to shop early and have one or two hours' attendance to dispense urgent medicine in the evening. In our district, with one, or perhaps two exceptions, we all agreed to close at one on Thursdays, and I do not think that anybody has regretted the arrangement. Speaking personally, I find that on totting up accounts for the six months, my returns have considerably increased. I should like to see further correspondence concerning the effect of the Act on the returns of other pharmacists.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. EVANS.

What of the Future?

SIR.—Some of your readers think I have "surrendered" because "Xrayer II." says so. He is now enjoying himself with the ancient history of pil. cochiae. While I do not want to waste my time or your space, I beg to say that I have not receded one inch from my original position. Time and experience will prove my assertions, and the arguments have not been refuted. If those who encourage me to proceed would but express their opinions as freely in the C. & D. as they do to me personally, some good might result, if only from an exchange of thought beyond the narrow range of tuppenny pharmacy. Disappointment is acknowledged in all reports: those who wanted dispensing work at any price have not got as much as they expected, while those who wanted profit are given too much labour for the money. It is said that not half the insured persons have yet selected their doctors, therefore three months' trial will not give us the information we require. All chemists should keep a careful record and show the result through their local Associations. If the Pharmaceutical Standing Committee really represents chemists throughout the country there can be no need for secrecy in their negotiations, and they will declare their policy in future for the approval of the trade. There is talk of a Chemists' Trade Union, and the want of some such organisation is needed. As a member of the Pharmaceutical Society I do not wish to see a division in the camp or any opposition to our legal constitution. If the Pharmaceutical Society cannot, will not, or is impotent in trade matters, then it is the duty of the chemists to make it efficient for all purposes. If the Pharmaceutical Society does not go with the times, it must eventually

lose its support. Ninety per cent. of its members expect something more than the Journal for their subscriptions, and I notice that this organ of the profession is still run at a loss of over 1,800*l.* a year. In order to form an idea of the net profit on Insurance dispensing it is necessary to get a fair percentage estimate of the establishment charges and total working expenses of the average chemist's business. The opinions of chemists' valuers would be of the greatest value, and I hope some of them will give their advice for the benefit of the trade generally. How many chemists get out a proper balance-sheet, or could tell you their net profit for 1912? How many ever take stock or have a valuation annually? Still fewer put a value on their own services, the most important item. "Xrayser II." said there were many chemists in business earning less than 200*l.* a year, to whom the Insurance Act might be of benefit. It is certain that their retail trade must suffer, and I question very much, with the choice of chemist, whether they, the most deserving, will get their share of the Insurance dispensing. Should State dispensaries ever be established, these are the men who ought to have the first chance of a good salary without risk and a pension before the age of sixty-five.

Yours truly,

J. J. JACKSON, Ph.C.

Subscribers' Symposium.

For questions, answers, incidents, and interchange of opinions among "C. & D." readers.

Magazine as Advertisement.

Will any of your readers give their experience of running a monthly magazine for advertising purposes?—R. C. F. (216/23).

Appreciations.

"I think the Winter Issue beats anything you have ever done."—H. W. H. (214/57).

"It is over twenty-five years since the *C. & D.* began to be for me a welcome weekly and a great help in many ways."—L. D. (220/46).

A Straits Settlements Subscriber (171/29) writes: "Your journal comes regularly to hand every week, and I never feel happy till I get the wrapper off and right into the heart of it. As for the *Diary*, it gets a right-hand place on my desk; and I must say it is the best value for the money I know of, to think one can get fifty-two copies of the *C. & D.* and the *Diary* thrown in, all for 10*s.*"

Legal Queries.

Before writing about your difficulty consult "The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary," 1913, pp. 211-242 and pp. 457-459, where most legal difficulties are anticipated.

Panel (225/26).—See the Editorial article in our issue of February 8.

Antifebrin (231/30).—The SALE OF SOLUTION OF AMMONIA is not confined to registered chemists; see *C. & D. Diary*, p. 212.

License (224/19).—PEDLING OF PATENT MEDICINES is illegal, even when the pedler holds a licence in respect to his premises.

Pyro (203/39).—See the article in the *C. & D. Diary*, p. 242, and the note on p. 215. Also Editorial in our issue of February 8.

Doubtful (213/56).—All your questions come within the subjects dealt with in the *C. & D. Diary*, pp. 211-216, to which we refer you for replies.

Puzzled (226/56).—If the matter is a question of fact solely, you should have little difficulty in getting the person to stop an assertion which you can prove to be false.

Inquirer (213/15).—In the wholesaling of preparations containing Part 1 poisons entries in the poison-book are not required by law, and such sales as those referred to by you are said to come within that category.

H. L. (214/65).—If a corn-cure company sells a preparation for curing corns, and has no reference to the fact other

than the name of the company on the package, the circumstances of the sale will determine whether or not the preparation is liable to medicine-stamp duty.

G. W. B. (142/15).—*SHOPS ACT.*—If the chemists of your town have not obtained an early-closing order it is not necessary for you to ask customers during closing hours if Friar's balsam, proprietary medicines, or any other medicines are required in case of illness. Feeding-bottles may not be sold.

Sea (222/2).—*THE LAW AS TO COPYRIGHT* is fully explained in the *C. & D. Diary*. It is no longer necessary for the owner of any publication to register it in order to prove that the copyright belongs to him, as the onus is upon any person who infringes the copyright to prove that he was entitled so to do.

A. H. B. (222/64).—*SUNDAY CLOSING.*—The Shops Act does not apply to trading on Sundays, and there is no law in Great Britain which will prevent any chemist selling medicines on Sunday. We have no special information in regard to the closing order in your town, but so far we have not seen a single one made under the Act and applicable to chemists in which the special provisions of Section 10 have been incorporated.

H. E. P. (223/60).—*WITNESS-FEES.*—A chemist's assistant has been giving evidence at an inquest and in Court, and for that purpose has been absent during business hours. The evidence relates to the sale of a powder in the chemist's business. The assistant has been paid fees for his attendance as a witness, although he has been paid his wages as usual. Do the fees belong to the assistant himself or to his employer?

[In our opinion, the assistant is entitled to the fees.]

Aspirin (205/65).—*SHOPS ACT CLOSING ORDER.*—There is nothing inconsistent in any of the statements; under a closing order the shops must be closed. If a chemist goes into his shop to dispense a prescription, Insurance or otherwise, he technically opens the shop during closing hours, and commits an offence, for which Section 4 (7) provides the defence. It is impossible for us or anybody else to say how far chemists who have obtained a closing order may go in infringing its terms; the Act as now interpreted gives no latitude.

F. H. S. (223/50) employs his two sisters, and provides them with board and lodging, but pays them no wages. They receive pocket-money, less than 2*s.* per annum, from another source. Must they be insured under the NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT? [By virtue of Schedule I, Part 2 (f), of the Act, the two sisters are not liable to be insured if they are "maintained" by "F. H. S." Whether the ladies are in fact maintained by their employer depends upon the nature and amount of the pocket money they receive from another source. In our opinion, unless they are substantially clothed, as well as boarded and lodged, by "F. H. S.", they are not, strictly speaking, "maintained" by him, and must therefore become insured.]

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We do not as a rule repeat information which has been given in this section during the past twelve months, as it occupies space which can be more profitably utilised for other information. In such cases the numbers are mentioned, and if querists cannot refer to these they may obtain the numbers from the "C. & D." Office at the published prices, usually 6*d.*

We do not undertake to analyse and report upon proprietary articles, and when samples are sent particulars should be supplied to us as to their origin, what they are, what they are used for and how.

Hopeful (222/69).—What your customer needs is not a medical man, but healthy exercise, effort of will to free his thoughts from the objectionable subject, and moderation in all things. The less he thinks about himself and his supposed weakness the better.

B. W. X. (221/61).—*HEALTH-SALT CAKING* in the tins is due to absorption of moisture. The tins are not air-tight, and the salt may be stored in an unusually damp place.

R. L. H. & Co. (219/39).—*FIRE-PROOFING FLANNELETTE.*—Much work has been done with a view of rendering flannelette less liable to take fire on contact with flame. The ordinary fire-proofing agents (sodium tungstate, borax, and alum) are employed, but these salts are readily removed by washing. Dr. W. H. Perkin, in conjunction with a Manchester cotton firm, has taken out numerous patents for a product which it is claimed can be washed many times without affecting the non-inflammable properties of the

flannelette. The first patent was in 1901, and involves the use of (1) aluminium-sulphocyanide and acetic acid, and (2) sodium tungstate, heat being applied to remove the organic acid and cause the tungstate to be precipitated in the fibre. Subsequent patents involve the use of zinc salts and sodium stannite in place of aluminium and of potassium ferrocyanide for the tungstate.

J. V. C. (Lisbon) (206/26).—(1) Camphor is often recommended to be dissolved in paraffin oil with a view of increasing the brilliancy of the light when the oil is burned. We have not, however, been able to detect any improvement when this has been done. (2) Wood's "Tablet Manufacture" (Lippincott, 7s. 6d.) is the best book on tablet-making. (3) MANUFACTURE OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.—The method employed in preparing hydrogen peroxide for medicinal purposes consists in decomposing barium peroxide with phosphoric acid. The barium peroxide, which must be of the purest quality, is made into a thin paste with water and introduced very gradually into the acid solution, the temperature of which must never exceed 20° C., and must be constantly agitated. When the solution is nearly neutralised the liquid is decanted from the precipitate and freed from dissolved baryta by the addition of sodium sulphate. You should read also the article on this subject in the "Winter Number," p. 138. (4) You could doubtless obtain second-hand copies of the books you mention by advertising in the "Coloured Supplement," but we advise you to purchase the newest editions of the works.

R. B. (213/55).—VIBRATORY MASSAGE.—The process for stimulating nerves to which you refer is carried out by hand or by a mechanical vibrator. It is not, we are informed, an out-of-the-way treatment, vibratory massage being a subject in which training is given in the courses required for the examinations of the Incorporated Society of Trained Masseuses (99 Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square, London, W.).

G. C. I. (208/62).—FOUL-BROOD IN BEES.—This is dealt with in Leaflet No. 32 published by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, 4 Whitehall Place, London, S.W., and obtainable free on application. Naphthalene alone or mixed with carbolic acid, thymol, or eucalyptus oil is placed in the hive, and β -naphthol is dissolved in the feeding syrup in the proportion of 3 grains to the pound of sugar.

R. C. (230/48).—TO REMOVE ANILINE MARKING-INK STAINS from linen use alternately dilute solutions of potassium permanganate and sulphurous acid, washing with water between the applications.

D. & H. (215/49).—CELLULOID VARNISH.—

Celluloid parings	... ...	5j.
Acetone,		
Amyl acetate	... ...	aa. 5x.

Solve.

G. A. B. (216/19).—(1) It is difficult to remove the red colour from a well-dyed billiard ball, but soaking in aniseed spirit is the most likely method. (2) SPIRITUS CINNAMOMI is a preparation of the British Pharmacopoeia.

R. R. L. (224/17).—LINIMENT.—It is difficult to advise you as to a suitable liniment for making a proprietary one, but as you wish to get away from the ordinary white embrocations we suggest the following for experiment:

1.	2.
Camphor oil	... 5vij.
Turpentine oil	... Oij.
Benzine,	
Cotton-seed oil	aa. 5xvj.
Capsicum in powder	5j.
Macerate the capsicum with the benzine for three days, shaking frequently.	
and strain. Then mix with the other ingredients.	
	Mix, macerate for fourteen days, and filter.
	Camphor
	... 5ij.
	Capsicum in powder 5ss.
	Origanum oil,
	Hemlock oil aa. 5j.
	Sassafras oil,
	Cajuput oil aa. 5ij.
	Turpentine oil ... 5j.
	Spirit ... 5xvj.

Peroxide (224/63).—HYDROGEN PEROXIDE TEST.—There are very delicate tests for peroxide of hydrogen, but these do not seem to be available as a means of settling a dispute as to whether feathers on a live fowl have been bleached with this agent.

R. S. B. (229/36).—HAIR-RESTORER.—See *C. & D.*, January 6, 1912, index folio 34, or "Pharmaceutical Formulas."

Freezing (214/20).—FREEZING-POINT OF SPIRIT.—A table giving the freezing-point of spirit of different strengths was published in the *C. & D.*, February 10, 1912, index folio 242.

J. B. C. (224/53).—SOFTENING CASEIN.—The hard mass will need reducing to powder and heating with an alkali to

render it plastic. If, however, you have not much of the substance, it would be better to start *de novo* and mould the articles from freshly precipitated casein.

C. B. (227/19).—PHOSPHORISED QUININE-AND-IRON TONIC.—See *C. & D.*, March 19, 1910, index folio 456. The product should be allowed to stand for forty-eight hours before filtering.

W. P. W. (224/69).—CEMENT.—To unite celluloid to zinc or copper which is subjected to the action of dilute acetic acid it would be best to employ a saturated solution of shellac in spirit.

W. H. & Co. (228/33).—WINDOW-ENCLOSURE PAINT.—For the top of the window enclosure which it is required to paint with a view of preventing water soaking through, it will be best to employ one of the enamel paints, such as are used for baths. These, being compounded with varnish, are much more waterproof than ordinary paint.

A. F. C. (224/58).—GREEN OINTMENT.—The older variety was made by digesting until crisp fresh elder-leaves (4) in a mixture of lard (8) and mutton-suet (1), but the modern variety is vaselin coloured with oil-soluble chlorophyll and medicated with eucalyptus oil. It requires about $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of Schütz's chlorophyll to give a nice green colour.

Esor (216/54).—REMOVAL OF RUST.—Rust on the plated parts of a bicycle is generally treated with a metal paste to effect its removal. If not effective, you should try a solution of potassium cyanide applied with a tooth-brush, or the same agent may be used as a cleaning-powder mixed with soap and whiting and employed moist.

M. Q. (215/39).—TAKING UP OPTICS.—"M. Q." asks, before taking up the study of optics, whether "the game is worth the candle." We think not in his case; as it is only those who go into the matter with some enthusiasm that are likely to make a commercial success of it. Perhaps some of our readers may like to give their opinions on the optical side of the business?

Inquisitive (225/8).—The brass memorial plate on the church wall is probably lacquered, and as it has only recently been placed in position the attention of the manufacturer should be called to the formation of spots. The remedy is to re-lacquer the plate after the necessary preparation.

W. J. S. (155/6).—Langoustine is the French for the spiny or rock lobster, also known as the sea crayfish; homard is the ordinary lobster.

Bristles (215/26).—BLEACHING BRISTLES.—As you have not succeeded in bleaching bristles white with peroxide of hydrogen, you should employ the older method with sulphurous acid. The bristles are first thoroughly washed in soft-soap and warm water, rinsed, and placed for two or three days in sulphurous acid. Finally they are washed in several changes of water and dried.

Factor (213/71).—LAWN-SAND.—The following is a good formula for this:

Calcium acid phosphate	... ...	10 lb.
Ammonium sulphate	... ...	50 lb.
Sand	... ...	40 lb.

Mix.

Drug-store (232/36).—The weekly wage of an unqualified manager of a drug-store will vary according to locality and nature of the business from 37s. 6d. to 50s.

Retrospect of Fifty Years Ago.

Reprinted from "The Chemist and Druggist," February 14, 1863.

Artificial Formation of Benzoic Acid from Aniline.

At the Royal Institution Dr. Hofmann lately described a remarkable series of experiments illustrating the artificial formation of benzoic acid from aniline. It is found that when aniline, C_6H_5N , is passed through a red-hot tube it yields a certain proportion of benzo-nitrile, the formula of which is C_6H_5N ; and, further, that when this is boiled with potash benzoic acid is formed, which unites with the potash, forming benzoate of that alkali. The changes that take place in these reactions are remarkable, as being the converse of those that usually occur in parallel decompositions, where the substances pass from a higher and more complex to a simpler form. Here, on the contrary, we pass from a lower to a higher state, and from a substance containing twelve equivalents of carbon to another which consists of fourteen.

